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ILLEGAL FIRECRACKER FACTORY

Seven killed in fire in Rajasthan; two injured

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17 tourism destinations reopened in J&K

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'Hasina's presence in India won't deter ties'

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Recalibration of Union-State relations

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MAKING THE CUT

Nissanka sends Lanka into the Super Eight

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NEARBY

10 courts in State get hoax bomb threats

DHARWAD/MYSURU
Panic gripped some of the court complexes in the State on Monday as a bomb threat email was received by 10 courts, including the Karnataka High Court's Dharwad Bench.
» PAGE 8

State notifies 1% welfare fee for gig workers

BENGALURU
The Karnataka government has notified the quantum of the welfare fee to be collected from aggregator platforms to provide social security benefits to platform-based gig workers at 1% per transaction for all services. » PAGE 8

NGT clears ₹92,000-cr. Great Nicobar project

The tribunal disposes of a batch of applications over environmental clearance for the project; says 'adequate safeguards' are provided in EC conditions and finds no good ground to interfere

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

A Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Monday cleared the way for the ₹92,000-crore Great Nicobar Island mega-infrastructure project, noting that "considering the strategic importance" of it and "other relevant considerations", "we do not find any good ground to interfere".

It disposed of applications related to the environment clearance (EC) for the project, with a direction to authorities "to ensure full and strict compliance of EC conditions".

The project includes a transshipment port, an airport, a power plant, and a township.

The Bench was hearing a batch of applications related to the EC, which was granted in 2022. An earlier NGT Bench had in 2023 called for the formation of a high-powered committee (HPC) to address certain issues concerning the protection of coral reef colonies, nesting sites of leatherback turtles, and the allegation that parts of the project are located in ecologically protected zones.

The applicants argued that the government had erred in limiting the terms of reference for the HPC to three issues and that the terms were "factually incorrect". They said the issues had not been properly examined. The NGT said "adequate safeguards" had been provided in the conditions specified in the EC, which the tribunal had already refused to interfere with in its 2023 order. It said the remaining issues had "been dealt with" by the HPC.

"A balanced approach is required to be adopted while considering the issue of allowing development of the port on a strategic location and taking adequate steps to carry out the activity strictly in terms of the ICRZ Notification, 2019 instead of prohibiting the activity if the objection is based on apprehension," the NGT said in its order.

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India's flagship AI summit opens to massive crowds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inaugural event of AI Impact Summit at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

After months of promotion as India's flagship artificial intelligence event, the five-day AI Impact Summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, drawing overwhelming crowds and packing Bharat Mandapam to capacity as thousands thronged the venue.

Officials had widely publicised the summit, hosting pre-event programmes across several Indian cities and abroad. Those efforts appeared to pay off on Monday, with nearly every accessible part of the sprawling 100-acre complex filled with attendees.

"We have more than 2.5 lakh registrations," Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Secretary S. Krishnan said on the sidelines. Entry to the event is free upon registration, and visitor passes have been oversubscribed, Mr. Krishnan said.

In a post on X in the morning, Prime Minister Modi said, "The AI Impact Summit will enrich global discourse on diverse aspects of AI, such as innovation, collaboration, responsible use and more. I am confident that the outcomes of the summit will help shape a future that is progressive, innovative and opportunity-driven."

Later in the afternoon, Mr. Modi visited the exhibition area, posting on X afterward that it was "a matter of immense pride for us that people from all over the world are coming to India for the India AI Impact Summit," and that the "occasion is further proof that our country is progressing rapidly in the field of science and technology and is making an important contribution to global development."

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» PAGE 13

Hampi gang rape and murder: three sentenced to death

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

In a landmark judgment relating to a crime that drew international condemnation, the First Additional District and Sessions Court in Gangavathi on Monday sentenced three men to death for the brutal gang rape of two women and the murder of a tourist near Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal in Sanapur in Koppal district, last year.

The accused Mallesh alias Handi Malla, 22, Sai alias Chaitannay Sai, 21, and Sharanappa alias Sharanabasavaraj, 27, were found guilty of various offences under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including murder, gang rape, and robbery. The incident occurred on the night of March 6, 2025, near the Tungabhadra Left Bank Canal in Sanapur.

The victims – a 27-year-old Israeli traveller and a 29-year-old homestay owner from Anegundi – were stargazing and listening to music with three male friends from the U.S., Maharashtra, and Odisha.

According to the police complaint, the convicts arrived on a motorcycle, initially pretending to ask for petrol. They soon demanded ₹100 from the group. When the tourists refused, the trio assaulted the victims.

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Battle readiness

Field exercise: K-9 Vajra tanks showcase their artillery capabilities during the 'Vajra Ghaat' exercise, conducted by the Southern Command's White Tiger Division in the Pokhran Field Firing Range on Monday. ANI

SC Bench to review if new data law delivers a 'body blow' to RTI

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to refer to a Constitution Bench a series of petitions arguing that India's new digital personal data law delivers a "body blow" to citizens' right to a transparent and accountable government under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

Section 44(3) of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act of 2023 imposes a "blanket ban" on the RTI Act applicants, preventing them from seeking disclosure of 'personal information', the petitioners said. They submitted that the provision cynically uses the right to privacy to cripple the citizens' right to information.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, heading a three-judge Bench, refused a plea to pass an interim order to stay the implementation of Section 44(3), though the top judge said that the petitions raised a "complex, slightly sensitive and really interesting" question of law.

"We may have to lay down what is meant by personal information," Chief Justice Kant remarked, issuing notice to the government.

'Unguided discretion'

Advocate Vrinda Grover, appearing for petitioner Venkatesh Nayak, submitted that the government, instead of using a chisel, used a "hammer to deliver body blows to citizens' right to information".

Ms. Grover argued that Section 44(3) introduced by the DPDP Act has accorded the government "unguided discretion to deny personal information, which is unconstitutional". In fact, the fundamental right to privacy has been extended to the State.

> This is about balancing competing interests. We have to iron out the creases and lay down what constitutes personal information
>
> **SURYA KANT**
> Chief Justice of India

The petitioners argued that Section 44(3) has amended Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act.

Originally, the RTI provision had exempted authorities from disclosing personal information to an applicant if the details sought had no relationship to any public activity or if disclosure would amount to unwarranted invasion of privacy. Even then, the government had to disclose if public interest outweighed privacy. The decision whether or not to reveal 'personal information' was taken by a Public Information Officer or the First Appellate Authority under the RTI Act after thoroughly weighing privacy and transparency concerns.

"Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act had struck the right balance between the right to privacy and the right to information," advocates Prashant Bhushan and Rahul Gupta, appearing for the National Campaign for People's Right to Information, submitted.

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Women's entry at Sabarimala temple: 9-judge SC Bench to commence review hearings from April 7

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Bench would hear the review petitioners challenging the 2018 judgment from April 7 to April 9. LEJU KAMAL

The Supreme Court on Monday scheduled for hearing a series of review and writ petitions on a September 2018 judgment, which allowed women of menstruating age to enter the Sabarimala temple in Kerala, before a nine-judge Constitution Bench from April 7, 2026.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said the maintainability of the review petitions had already been decided by an earlier nine-judge Bench constituted in 2019 by then Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde. The hearings before the Bench had to be aborted abruptly due to the onset of the COVID pandemic.

The Supreme Court gave a brief timeline for the hearing of the case in April 2026. The Bench would hear the review petitioners challenging the 2018 judgment from April 7 to 9. Those opposing them would be heard from April 14 to 16. The rejoinder submissions would be heard on April 21, followed by the concluding submissions from the *amicus curiae* on April 22. Parties have to adhere to the timeline, the court stressed.

In November 2019, a majority judgment by a five-judge Constitution Bench led by then Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi had referred the Sabarimala review and writ petitions to a seven-judge Bench.

Over 60 review and writ petitions had challenged the Sabarimala judgment. The 2019 judgment had not expressly stayed the September 2018 verdict. The 2019 majority judgment had also clubbed similar petitions concerning the essentiality of religious practices pending in the Supreme Court, including the right of Muslim women to enter mosques and the issue of female genital mutilation practised by the Dawoodi Bohra community, with the Sabarimala case. The judgment in 2019 framed legal questions in the case, including whether practices considered essential should be given constitutional protection and the extent to which the judiciary could intervene in an essential religious practice.

'WILL SEEK BALANCE'
» PAGE 9

Go to HC in case against Assam CM Himanta: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday found "no good reason" to consider petitions for a criminal investigation into Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma's alleged communal speeches and a deleted social media post depicting him shooting at animated Muslim figures.

A three-judge Bench directed the petitioners to approach the Gauhati High Court instead.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 12

India vs. Pakistan — a rivalry only in reams of newsprint

Matches between the sides were gripping affairs but that seems to be a thing of the past; the former holds a perfect 8-0 record in ODI World Cups and an 8-1 advantage in the T20 showpiece; Sunday's contest in Colombo showed the increasing gulf in terms of quality

A study in contrast: While the Indians have mastered the art of keeping emotions aside when facing their biggest rivals, the Pakistanis have often crumbled under the weight of pressure and expectations. GETTY IMAGES

R. Kaushik
COLOMBO

In what now seems like the distant past, cricket matches between India and Pakistan were gripping affairs, steeped in tension and nerves, and extraordinary quality. There was an array of glittering superstars in both camps; India had the batting, Pakistan a seemingly endless supply of high-class fast bowlers who, to misquote Geoffrey Boycott, could obtain swing with even an orange.

Contests between these two proud nations were exactly that - contests that were no holds barred. Contrary to this age where players don't even look in each other's direction, let alone shake hands and exchange pleasantries, Indian and Pakistani stars struck up long-lasting friendships that have stood the test of time. Nothing illustrates the bond formed in those days better than the Shaz and Waz camaraderie - Ravi Shastri and Wasim Akram continue to be great friends whose relationship isn't based on nationality. But we digress. Or do we?

Even in this competitive era where professionalism has been lent new meaning, it is not as if friendships and relationships don't exist between players from different countries. Virat Kohli shares an excellent rapport with his brother from another mother, A.B. de Villiers, and with Faf du Plessis, under whom he played for Royal Challengers Bengaluru after giving up the captaincy. But when it comes to India and Pakistan, whatever happens on the field is alone what happens. There is nothing that happens off it, and even on the field, apart from the tussle between bat and ball, nothing is being allowed to happen anymore.

Even a year back, it wasn't so. While the countries were at loggerheads politically, nothing stopped the players from extending a hand of friendship. Everything changed after the April 22 Pahalgam attack in which 26 innocent civilian tourists lost their lives after a dastardly, cowardly terror attack. In the first senior men's cricketing outing between the nations in Dubai in September, Suryakumar Yadav studiedly refrained from shaking hands with Salman Agha at the T20 Asia Cup, unquestionably following instructions from his bosses, who themselves might have been following instructions from theirs.

That set off a crazy sequence of events that has done no one any credit. Sport isn't just about turning up on the field of play, getting the job done - one way or the other - and going their separate ways. It is intended to foster bonds and forge goodwill but clearly, neither of that is on India's agenda, at the very least.

The brouhaha that accompanied the no-handshake policy in Dubai was conspicuously absent in Colombo on Sunday when the teams locked horns in a Group A league fixture of the T20 World Cup. Suryakumar had been pointedly asked at the pre-match presser if he would offer a handshake, to which he replied nonchalantly and without the seriousness the question demanded: "Wait for 24 hours and you will find out." A few hours previously, Agha was asked what his reaction would be if a handshake was forthcoming from his Indian counterpart. He was equally coy while saying, "You will know tomorrow."

In the end, we never could discover what Pakistan's stance would have been, because Suryakumar's hand remained steadfastly by his side. Match referee Richie Richardson, the former West Indian captain, had, one presumes, made everything clear so that there were no misgivings and there was no scope for miscommunication. Suryakumar flipped the coin, Agha called, called right, spoke first to Pommie Mbangwa, then whirled away towards his dugout as Suryakumar walked up to explain his team's strategy and the personnel changes India had rung in. The entire episode barely registered a 1 on the Richter Scale, perhaps so insensitive have we become to something that goes against the very ethos of sport.

Glorious past

It isn't this alone that has changed when it comes to India, Pakistan and cricket. As briefly alluded to at the top of this piece, this is no longer a battle of equals. The days when Sachin Tendulkar went toe to toe with Akram and Waqar Younis, or Mohammad Azharuddin and Sourav Ganguly were tested by Saqlain Mushtaq, are in the past. Irfan Pathan's screaming inswing that netted him a first-over hat-trick in the Karachi Test of 2006 or Anil Kumble's craft and guile that made him just the second man (at that time) in history to take all 10 Test wickets in an innings in Delhi in 1999, are well and truly behind us.

Occasionally, Pakistan will roll the clock back and trouble, even overcome, India - like in the T20 World Cup league clash in Dubai in 2021 or in an Asia Cup Super Four tie at the same venue a year later. But for the most part, it's been India and India alone for the last decade and more. In ODI World Cups, India hold a perfect 8-0 record while in its T20 counterpart, they enjoy an overwhelming 8-1 record. Sunday night's 61-run drubbing, eked out in the shadow of the boycott that wasn't, was the perfect illustration of why India enjoy a combined 16-1 advantage over their neighbours in all World Cups. The better team doesn't always carry the night, especially in 20-over cricket; it's the team that plays better in those three and a half hours that comes out triumphant. India didn't just play the better cricket, they were clearly the better team who have perfected the art of setting emotion aside even though they aren't churlish enough to hide behind 'This is just another match' platitudes and cliches.

On match eve, Suryakumar conceded that there would be pressure, more than normal, because that was the nature of India-Pakistan battles. It's a view his deputy Axar Patel echoed after the commanding victory had been sealed and delivered, with a cute bow tie on top. As much as the players might try to insulate themselves from 'outside noise', there is always a message here, a word there, an entreaty from somewhere else, to 'beat them.' How can one not be influenced by such factors? The trick is not to fight it but ride with it, and that's something Indian teams have managed successfully over the years. To try to keep harping that this is just another game, which it clearly isn't, will be nothing if not counterproductive.

But as they say in cricket, you play the ball and not the bowler, and therefore you play the opponent, not the banner under which the opponent has turned out. Through successive generations of performers, India have found the perfect way to embrace the pressure without allowing themselves to be overwhelmed by it, which might be a simplistic way of explaining their unmatched superiority but which also is most certainly a major contributing factor.

Fearless mindset

In Colombo, India were turbo-charged by the electric, effervescent, diminutive Ishan Kishan, who reiterated that wonderful things come in small packages.

The days when Tendulkar went toe to toe with Akram and Waqar, or Azharuddin and Ganguly were tested by Saqlain symbolised the competitive nature of the duels

To imbibe the daredevilry he showcased on a stage such as the World Cup and an occasion that involved their fiercest rivals as their opponents called for a special mindset, a mindset bereft of self-doubt and the fear of failure.

Often, the fear of failure is more debilitating than failure itself; inorganic conservatism comes with a massive no-no attached to it because that's how the natural order of things are. Kishan didn't try to play differently just because he was up against Pakistan and could/would be pilloried if he was dismissed attempting an outrageous stroke. True, he had the full backing of the leadership group to stick to what comes naturally and best to him. But even so, to be able to go out and bat the way he did on a surface that tested the mettle of everyone who came out to bat was great credit to the 27-year-old's thinking process and the extraordinarily positive headspace he has cultivated.

Kishan wasn't risk-averse so much as calculating in the kind of risks he took. He played the percentages wonderfully well, and because his off-side game has improved by leaps and bounds, he can no longer be tied down by packing one side of the wicket and staying away from his areas of strength. He was both the trend-setter and the enforcer, the brutal ball-basher whose 77 off 40 on a pitch where everyone else struggled was more than worth its weight in pure gold.

Perhaps because they believed the floaty lies around them or perhaps because they themselves were convinced so, Pakistan banked on spin to do the job for them. Spin did, and it didn't, if you know what we mean; between them, Mohammad Nawaz, Saim Ayub and Usman Tariq, hyped up by the Indian media more than anyone else, finished with four for 77 from 12 overs, just reward for sticking to their disciplines and allowing the pitch to do the rest. Leggies Abrar Ahmed and Shadab Khan bowled poorly and were mercilessly punished, taken for 55 in four wicketless overs. Shaheen Afridi, a *bete noire* until three years ago for his ability to swing the ball back into the right-handers at great pace from a left-arm over angle, was reduced to two token but massively expensive overs that leaked 31.

By contrast, India's less talked-up spinners – lest we should forget, Varun Chakaravarthy is the No. 1 T20I bowler in the world – joined hands for a combined six for 80 from 13 overs while their fast bowlers, the peerless Jasprit Bumrah and Pakistani nemesis Hardik Pandya, boasted four for 33 from five overs. Pakistan used only two overs of pace, one at either end of their bowling innings; India's quicks bowled the first four overs of the Pakistani chase. By the end of the second over, a target of 176 appeared Everest-ian, the top three gone with just 13 on the board. India reiterated that there is no substitute for quality; it wasn't so much about pace alone or spin alone but about using a blend of the two judiciously, trusting quality and immense skill-sets and refusing to be drawn into cute theories and a heightened estimation of one's craft and strengths.

For all the hype in the lead-up to a match that nearly didn't happen until it finally did, this contest was singularly disappointing, flat and one-sided. How long do we continue to whip up this rivalry when clearly, it is a rivalry only in reams of newsprint, in the digital space or on airwaves but no longer on the field of play?

THE GIST

- Occasionally, Pakistan will roll the clock back and trouble, even overcome, India – like in the T20 World Cup league clash in Dubai in 2021 or in an Asia Cup Super Four tie at the same venue a year later. But for the most part, it's been India and India alone for the last decade and more
- Through successive generations of performers, India have found the perfect way to embrace the pressure without allowing themselves to be overwhelmed by it
- The trick is not to fight the external factors but ride with them... that's something the Indian teams have managed successfully over the years

Karnataka collects over ₹11,000 cr. through FASTag transactions in three years

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari says that electronic toll collection now accounts for more than 98% of user fee collection across the country, including Karnataka

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Karnataka has collected over ₹11,000 crore in toll revenue through FASTag transactions alone in the last three financial years, showing the rapid shift to electronic tolling on national highways in the State.

According to data by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, ₹3,049.09 crore was collected through FASTag in 2022-23. The figure increased to ₹3,839.14 crore in 2023-24, and rose further to ₹4,224.08 crore in 2024-25. The cumulative collection during the three-year period stood at ₹11,112.31 crore.

Replying to an unstarred question by MP G.C. Chandrashekhar in the Rajya Sabha on February 11, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said that Electronic Toll Collection (ETC) now accounts for more than 98% of user fee collection across the country, including Karnataka. The data indicates near-universal adoption of FASTag at toll plazas, significantly reducing dependence on cash transactions.

Data indicates near-universal adoption of FASTag at toll plazas, reducing dependence on cash transactions. FILE PHOTO

He explained that FASTag transactions are processed within a secured ecosystem involving the Toll Management System Software at plazas, the acquirer bank, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) as the Central Clearing House, and the FASTag issuer bank. No transaction can be completed without the participation of all three stakeholders. Each toll deduction is communicated to the user and recorded in a central repository, ensuring transparency and accountability in toll operations.

Surprise checks

Mr. Gadkari stated that to curb toll evasion and prevent revenue leakage, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on January 25, 2024. The SOP mandates surprise checks at toll plazas and regular monitoring to ensure that all cash and FASTag transactions are processed strictly through the software, thereby minimising the scope for manual intervention and discrepancies. On toll revisions, Mr. Gadkari clarified that user fees are collected under the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008. The rates at publicly funded toll plazas are revised annually based on changes in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI). In contrast, toll plazas operated by concessionaires revise rates in accordance with the terms specified in their concession agreements.

The Minister added that toll rates may also increase when the tolling length under a fee plaza is expanded. Charges vary according to vehicle category, with cars, jeeps and vans paying the lowest rates.

FASTag toll collection

Total collection from 2022 to 2025:	₹11,112.31 crore
2022-23:	₹3,049.09 crore
2023-24:	₹3,839.14 crore
2024-25:	₹4,224.08 crore

Source: Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

High Court orders inspection of PG accommodations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the Greater Bengaluru Authority to inspect the Paying Guest (PG) accommodations belonging to the members of the PG Accommodation Welfare Association, Bengaluru, to ascertain their claim that they have adhered to the 10-point guidelines for PGs issued in 2024.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the interim order on the petitions filed by the association and some of the owners of a few individual PGs questioning the show cause notices issued to them by the civic body in March 2025 in relation to adherence to the guidelines.

As the advocate for the petitioner on February 12 told the court that the members of the association have implemented the 2024 guidelines, the court passed the interim order directing the jurisdictional medical officer, along with the jurisdictional additional director town planning, inspect each of the PG accommodations of the petitioners and the members of the association to ascertain the compliance of the guidelines. Asking the civic authorities to commence the inspection from February 18 and complete it within two weeks, the court directed the authorities to examine whether the construction put up by the buildings housing PGs are in accordance with the sanctioned plan.

If no plan sanction was granted but construction was done in accordance with the applicable building by-laws in all regards, the authorities have to ascertain whether the use of the premises is permitted under the relevant zonal regulations, the court said.

The court also said that the petitioners and members of the association could participate during the inspection if they choose to do so or depute their respective representatives. However, if they do not participate or not cooperate with the inspection, they would not be entitled to any equitable consideration, the court made it clear while adjourning further hearing till March 16.

The 10-point guidelines include installation of CCTV surveillance, a minimum space of 70 sq. ft for each occupant, clean and hygienic washroom facilities, a source of potable drinking water, if the facility has its own mass kitchen, then it must obtain the FSSAI licence, at least one background-checked security guard, among others.

Man dies in jumbo attack

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

An agricultural worker died after he was attacked by a wild elephant at Pura village near Hunasehalli in Chikkamagaluru taluk on Monday.

Yallappa, 45, a native of Hanagal taluk in Haveri district, was working in a coffee estate belonging to Nagesh Gowda.

While he was on his way to his residence, a wild elephant trampled him to death. Yallappa had moved to Chikkamagaluru for livelihood. He is survived by his wife and two children.

Metro Railway, Kolkata

Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway, Kolkata for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work: **Name of work:** Modification/Renovation of 1st Floor of Administrative Building for Metro Railway Training Academy and allied works including connected works at Dy. CE/Con-I Office at Noapara Carshed of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Approx Cost of Work:** ₹ 32,06,532.90, **Earnest Money:** ₹ 64,100/-. **Completion Period:** 06 Months, **Date and Time of Closing:** 10.03.2026 at 12:00 hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website **www.ireps.gov.in.** Amendments/ Corrigendum,if any, would be hosted only on the website.
Abridged e-Tender Notice No.: Civil-2550-2026 (Open)
Follow us at: /metrorailwaykol /metrorailkolkata

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government Of India Undertaking)
Mysuru Rural Regional Office,
No. 26/A, 1st Floor, Guest House Road,
Nazarbad, Mysore - 570010
Ph.: 0821-2568720

POSSESSION NOTICE [For Immovable Property]

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the **Canara Bank, T. Narasipura Branch** under the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002), and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice **Dated 21-11-2025** calling upon the **Borrower : 1. M/s P S A Metals,** Door No. 393, 1st Floor, Shop No.03, Sheru Circle, C K Road, Channapatna Town, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagar District-562160, **2. Sri. Syed Nooruddin,** S/o Syed Yakub, Door No. 563, Kothanahalli, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagara District - 562160, **3. Smt. M Savitha,** D/o Mari Swamy, Site No. 472, Shivashakthi and Hardware, Dalavayi Agrahara, T. Narasipura Town, T. Narasipura Taluk, Mysuru District-571124, **4. Smt. M Savitha,** W/o C M Prakash, Door No. 321, Dalavayi Agrahara, T. Narasipura Town & Taluk, Mysuru District-571124, **5. Sri. Shaik Mohammed Zeeshan,** S/o Asgar Ahmed, No. 653, Salamulla Road, Daira, Channapatna Taluk, Ramnagar District-562160, **6. Smt. Shafiya Mumtaz Bano,** No. 653, Salamulla Road, Daira, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagar District-562160, **7. Smt. Shafiya Mumtaz Bano,** W/o Asgar Ahmed, No. 564, Ghanimiya Street, Daira, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagar District-562160, **8. Sri. Syed Shamshuddin,** S/o M Syed Yakub, No. 564, Ghanimiya Street, Daira, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagar District-562160, **9. Sri. Sheik Davud @ Asgar Ahmed,** S/o Mohammed Peer, No. 653, Salamulla Road, Daira, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagar District-562160 **10. Sri. Mohsien Ali,** S/o Late Abbas Ali, 564, Ghanimiyan Street, Daira, Channapatna Taluk, Ramanagar District-562160, **11. Sri. C M Prakash,** S/o M Mahadevappa, Door No. 321, Dalavayi Agrahara, T. Narasipura Town & Taluk, Mysuru District-571124. to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs. 2,07,87,978/- (Rupees Two Crore Seven Lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Eight Only)** within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this **13-02-2026.**

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13 (8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the **Canara Bank, T. Narasipura Branch** for an amount of **Rs. 2,07,87,978/- (Rupees Two Crore Seven Lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Nine Hundred Seventy Eight Only)** and further interest, incidental expenses thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Property - 1 :
Name of the title holder : Sri. Sheik Davud @ Asgar Ahmed, S/o Mohammed Peer
(as per the gift deed Document No. CAN-1-02607-2007-08, CD No. CAND35, Dated 14-01-2008 at Channapatna Sub-Registrar Office)
All that piece and parcel of the Commercial Land and Building, Muncipal Khata No. 1897, Muncipal Old Property No.1530/1, PID No.26-1-10-26, **Measuring East to West on the 6.47 Meters, on the South 7.62 Meters, North to South on the East 17.68 Meter, on the West 12.65 Meter (6.47+7.62 X 17.68+12.65 Meters),** Property Situated at Ward No. 26, Sathanur Road, Munciapl 'B' Division, Channapatna Town, Ramanagara District. **Property Bounded by : East By:** RCC Building belongs to S Mohammed, **West By :** Property of Syed Naziulla, **North By :** Property of Shah Mohammed, **South By :** Sathanur Road.

Property - 2 :
Name of the title holder : Sri. Sheik Davud @ Asgar Ahmed, S/o Mohammed Peer
All that piece and parcel of the Residential Land and Building, Muncipal Khata No. 822, Old Property No.767/652/653, PID No.24-1-127-13, **Measuring East to West 7.62 Meters and 6.09 Meters, North to South 16.76 Meters and 3.96 Meters (7.62 & 6.09 X 16.76 & 3.96 Meter),** Property Situated at Door No. 13, Ward No. 24, between B.M. Road and old Mandipete Road, Block 1 (Salamulla Beedhi), Channapatna Town , Ramanagara District. **Property Bounded by East By:** Road, **West By:** 24-1-127-11, **North By:** 24-1-507-6B, **South By:** 24-1-127-Road.

Property - 3 :
Name of the title holder : Sri. C M Prakash, S/o M Mahadevappa
(as per the registered sale deed Document No. TNP-1-03994-2015-16, CD No. TNPD86, Dated 31-12-2015 at T. Narasipura Sub-Registrar Office, T. Narasipura)
A) All that piece and parcel of the Commercial Land and Building property Khata Assessment No. 316, Madapura Village, Janger No. 516, Property No:152200702510220058, **Measuring East to West 51.816 Meters, North to South 54.8640 Meters. Total area measuring of 2842.83 Square Meters.**
B) All that piece and parcel of the Commercial Property Khata Assessment No.316, Madapura Village, Janger No. 516, Property No: 152200702510220053, **Measuring East to West 21.3360 Meter, North to South 36.576 Meters, Total area of 780.39 Square Meters.** Property Situated at Madapura Village, Talakadu Hobli, T Narasipura Taluk, Mysuru District -571124. **Property Bounded by East By:** Own site & Property of Madashetty, **West By :** Property of Biligiri, **North By :** Talakadu Road, **South By :** Property of M. Mahadevaiah (M. Mahadevappa)

Property - 4 :
Name of the title holder : Smt. M Savitha, W/o C M Prakash
(as per the registered sale deed Document No. TNP-1-02491-2012-13, CD No. TNPD54, Dated 20-07-2012 at T. Narasipura Sub-Registrar Office, T. Narasipura)
A) All that piece and parcel of the Residential Land and Building, Property Khata Assessment/Site No.472/476/434, **Measuring East to West 50 Feet, North to South 18 Feet (50X18).**
B) All that piece and parcel of the Residential Land and Building, Property Khata Assessment/Site No. 473/477/435, **Measuring East to West 50 Feet, North to South 19¾ Feet (50X19¾).**
C) All that piece and parcel of the Residential Land and Building, Property Khata Assessment/Site No. 474/478/436, **Measuring East to West 50 Feet, North to South 19¾ Feet (50X19¾).**
Property Situated at Dalavayi Agrahara, T. Narasipura Town, T. Narasipura Taluk, Mysuru District-571124. **Property Bounded by East By:** Property of Nandish, **West By:** Road, **North By:** House of Gopalaraya, **South By:** House of Subramanyabhat

Date : 13-02-2026
Place : T. Narasipura
Sd/- Authorized Officer
Canara Bank

IIMB's EPGP secures 34th rank globally, up from 57 in 2025

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Executive Post Graduate Programme (EPGP), the one-year full-time MBA for experienced professionals, offered by Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) has climbed in the latest *Financial Times* MBA Rankings 2026, securing the 34th position globally, up from 57 in 2025. The EPGP also consolidated its standing domestically, ranking third among MBA offerings in India.

The *Financial Times* rankings assess programmes on parameters such as career progression, alumni satisfaction, research output, diversity, internationalisation and value for money. In the 2026 edition, the EPGP recorded an Aims Achieved score of 85%, one of the highest among Indian institutions. It ranked fourth globally in Career Progress, and second in India on the same metric, placed 24th worldwide for Value for Money, and achieved a global Carbon Footprint rank of 21, the highest in India.

The institute also secured the second position in India in the FT Research Rank, which is based on faculty publications in 50 selected academic and practitioner journals between January 2023 and May 2025. Gender diversity indicators showed progress, with women accounting for 44% of the Board and 25% of the faculty.

The EPGP combines academics with leadership development and global exposure to navigate complex and technology-driven business environments. It has graduated more than 1,000 professionals who hold senior leadership roles across sectors.

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS **SCHOOL BUZZ**
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

PROUD ACHIEVEMENT

Carmel High School, Basaveshwara Nagar NCC Cadet (LFC) Shamanth excelled at the Republic Day Camp in Delhi and participated in the Prime Minister's Rally before Shri Narendra Modi Ji. He represented the Karnataka and Goa Directorate, which won the Prime Minister's Banner for the second consecutive year. 1 Kar Air Sqn NCC secured the Best Air Wing Unit and Best Group – Bengaluru 'B' Group awards. LFC Shamanth received the DDG Commendation Card under the guidance of Wg. Cdr. P. R. Ponnappa, Wg. Cdr. Niranjan Acharya, PF Khan, and Mr. Gagan Deep S.

EDUCATIONAL TRIP

SJR Public School organised an educational trip for students of Classes 3–5, who began their journey with a prayer at the school campus. After breakfast at Shilandhara Resort, they visited the Channapatna Toy Factory, where they observed the making of traditional wooden toys and made independent purchases. The day continued with lunch, followed by rain dance and swimming pool activities at the resort. Students returned to school with joyful memories, marking a memorable and enriching experience.

BLESSINGS CEREMONY

Vishwa Venkateshwara International School conducted a Blessings Ceremony for Grade 10 and 12 students, marking an auspicious beginning with prayers to Lord Ganesha and Goddess Saraswati, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. Inspiring messages, student reflections and heartfelt wishes from teachers and academic heads encouraged learners to approach their examinations with confidence and determination. The presentation of the Student of the Year award added a proud highlight to the occasion.

For Subscription related queries, please contact Raghavendra Desai:
Handphone:+91 9986196254 | Email: desai.rnb@thehindu.co.in

बिहार सरकार
न्यायालय समाहर्त्ता–सह–जिला दण्डाधिकारी, गया जी
मद्य–निषेध, उत्पाद एवं निबंधन विभाग
ज्ञापांक 515 / म०नि०, गया जी
अतिअल्पकालीन नीलामी सूचना

एतद् द्वारा सर्व साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि बिहार राज्य में पूर्ण शराबबंदी के उपरांत शराब के परिवहन में प्रयुक्त वाहनों को समाहर्त्ता–सह–जिला दंडाधिकारी, गया जी / प्राधिकृत पदाधिकारी, गया जी द्वारा बिहार मद्यनिषेध एवं उत्पाद अधिनियम 2016 (यथा संशोधित) में निहित प्रावधानों के अधीन वाहनों का राज्यसात आदेश पारित किया गया है।

समाहर्त्ता–सह–जिला दंडाधिकारी, गया जी / प्राधिकृत पदाधिकारी, गया जी द्वारा किए गए राज्यसात वाहनों का सार्वजनिक आम नीलामी (पॉलिसी एक्ट) जिला परिषद, सभाकक्ष, गया जी में पूर्वाह्न 11:30 बजे से की जायेगी। नीलामी में भाग लेने वाले व्यक्तियों को स्तंभ– 7 में अंकित मूल्यांकन राशि का 50 प्रतिशत स्तंभ– 8 में अंकित राशि अग्रधन के रूप में आवेदन पत्र के साथ बैंक ड्राफ्ट जो Assistant Comissioner of Excise, Gaya के पदनाम से एवं Payable at SBI Main Branch Gaya होगा। सारणी में अंकित सार्वजनिक नीलामी हेतु वाहनों की सूची निम्न प्रकार से है। :–

वाहन की नीलामी की तिथि		आवेदन प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि	आवेदन प्राप्त करने का स्थान
नीलामी की पहली तिथि	दिनांक–11.03.2026 समय–11:30 पुर्वाह्न	दिनांक–09.03.2026 समय–05:00 अपराह्न तक	कार्यालय सहायक आयुक्त मद्यनिषेध, गया जी
शेष बचे वाहनों की नीलमी की द्वितीय तिथि	दिनांक–14.03.2026 समय–11:30 पुर्वाह्न	दिनांक–12.03.2026 समय–05:00 अपराह्न तक	
शेष बचे वाहनों की नीलमी की तृतीय तिथि	दिनांक–18.03.2026 समय–11:30 पुर्वाह्न	दिनांक–16.03.2026 समय–05:00 अपराह्न तक	

क्र० सं०	उत्पाद अधिहरण वाद सं०	थाना का नाम	काण्ड सं०/उत्पाद वाद सं०/दिनांक	वाहन का प्रकार	वाहन पंजीकरण सं०	मोटरयान निरीक्षक द्वारा निर्धारित मुल्य	अग्रधन की राशि	वाहन मालिक	अभि युक्ति
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
262	25/23 17.07.2023	बजीरगंज	11/23 06.01.2023	बजाज प्लसर 220 मोटरसाईकिल	KA51EZ-1799	₹ 23,250.00	₹ 11,625.00	आनन्द प्रभात पिता–जीवन कुमार, Mo.-18/19 FLOT No.-202, MN BTM 2ND STAGE, Dist.-Bangalore, State- Karnataka, Pin Code-560076	

विशेष जानकारी हेतु कार्यालय सहायक आयुक्त मद्यनिषेध, गया जी में किसी भी कार्य दिवस में संपर्क किया जा सकता है।

सहायक आयुक्त मद्यनिषेध
गया जी

PR- 024131 (EXCISE) 2025-26

विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाइट state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar पर देखा जा सकता है।

नशे से बचने का है एक ही उपचार, दृढ़ संकल्प और परिवार से प्यार

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS
IN MEDICAL SCIENCES
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India) NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029

DNB-PDCET 2026

NOTICE

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the **DNB-PDCET 2026** on **12th April 2026**.

The online applications are being invited from **17th February** to **08th March 2026** at NBEMS website:

https://natboard.edu.in/viewnbeexam?exam=pdcet

Candidate Care Support: +91-7996165333
• Helpline Portal on applicant login page
• Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

Single genome-editing strategy can help treat multiple disorders

Nonsense mutations account for about a quarter of all known disease-causing genetic changes; each one halts a different protein at a different point, creating a range of disorders; developing a separate treatment for each is a slow and expensive process; a new study has found a way around this

Manjeera Gowravaram

Nonsense mutations account for about a quarter of all known disease-causing genetic changes. GETTY IMAGES

Genetic disorders often stem from small errors in the DNA sequence with major consequences. Many diseases like cystic fibrosis and Batten disease can be traced to changes disrupting the cell's ability to build a complete, functional protein. One particularly common culprit is the nonsense mutation, where a single incorrect DNA letter inserts a premature stop signal. When the cell encounters it, protein production ends too early, leaving the body without important enzymes, transporters or structural components.

Nonsense mutations account for about a quarter of all known disease-causing genetic changes. Each one halts a different protein at a different point, creating a wide range of disorders that, at present, require separate treatments. Each therapy needs to be designed, tested and approved on its own. This is a slow and expensive process.

A study in *Nature* recently revealed a way around this challenge. Instead of crafting a therapy for every mutation, researchers from the Broad Institute, Harvard University, and the University of Minnesota have developed a method to address many nonsense mutation diseases using a single genome-editing strategy. Their approach, called Prime-Editing-mediated Readthrough of premature Termination codons (PERT), reprogrammes one of the cell's own genes into a tool to override premature stop signals, allowing the cell to ignore the faulty instruction and complete the protein.

"This study offers an intriguing proof-of-concept for a gene-agnostic therapy that could, in principle, benefit many rare diseases caused by nonsense mutations," Debojyoti Chakraborty, senior principal scientist at CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology, New Delhi, and who wasn't involved in the study, said.

Repurposing genes

Cells make proteins by transcribing the DNA into mRNA, written in a sequence of three nucleotides at a time; each set of three is called a codon. Then tRNA acts like a translator: each one recognises a specific codon and transports the matching amino acid, like making a photograph from its negative. Finally, a cellular machine called the ribosome strings these amino acids together, one by one, to make proteins.

The tRNA genes number in the hundreds. Many of them are redundant because they perform overlapping functions, so the loss or alteration of one of them is often harmless.

The researchers used this redundancy to test whether a non-essential tRNA gene could be edited into a suppressor tRNA – a molecule that reads through premature stop signals and inserts an amino acid there instead. Laboratories have used natural suppressor tRNAs for decades but they have been unsuitable for therapies thus far due to concerns about their safety and durability.

Using a precise genome-editing approach called prime editing, the team showed that a human tRNA gene can be rewritten to permanently operate as a suppressor tRNA while also producing tRNA at safe, natural levels. This allowed the edited cell to override premature stop codons and make full-length proteins without disrupting global protein production.

Finding effective candidates

Human cells contain 418 tRNA genes. With the help of prime editing, the researchers found that four tRNAs – called leucine, arginine, tyrosine, and serine – showed promise to suppress a premature stop codon called *TAG*. However, the natural versions of these tRNAs weren't good enough for therapeutic use.

To increase their effectiveness, the researchers engineered thousands of variants of the four tRNA by adjusting their DNA sequences and by making small changes to the tRNA structure itself. These improvements made the tRNAs more stable and better at decoding premature stop signals. This multi-step engineering effort produced several optimised suppressor tRNAs.

The next challenge was to install them efficiently into the genome. However, editing a tRNA gene is difficult because that part of the DNA is often compact and tightly folded, making it harder for genome-editing enzymes to access it.

To overcome this, the researchers turned to the specifics of prime editing. This technique uses a specialised molecule called a prime-editing guide RNA, or pegRNA, to lead the editing machinery to the correct spot on the DNA and hold the template needed to write the new genetic code.

Because the success of this process depends heavily on the precise design of the pegRNA, the team created a library of more than 17,000 different ones and tested various configurations to identify the ones that could successfully access the tightly folded DNA and rewrite the native tRNA gene into its optimised suppressor form. Based on the results of this screen, the team identified a prime-editing enzyme that they named PE6c. It proved especially effective at rewriting the targeted DNA sequence, and became more efficient when paired with a strategy called PE3 – which uses an additional guide RNA to steer the cell's repair machinery to adopt the edited sequence.

> The authors present strong laboratory evidence showing that their engineered tRNA approach can restore protein function in multiple models, which is an important advance
>
> **DEBOJYOTI CHAKRABORTY**
> Senior principal scientist at CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology

In cultured human cells, this combination had 60-80% editing efficiency, which is unusually high for multi-base genomic edits. To compare the standard method for precise gene insertion, called homology-directed repair, is typically 10-20% efficient, or below, in similar contexts.

Safety tests indicated the process didn't accidentally alter unrelated parts of the DNA, didn't disturb the cell's overall activity or normal protein production, and it distinguished between faulty and correct instructions. In particular, it ignored the premature stop signals causing the disease while still respecting the natural stop signals that mark the actual end of a protein.

The researchers called this complete package PERT. To evaluate its therapeutic potential, they tested the method in cell models of Batten disease, Tay-Sachs disease, and Niemann-Pick C1 disease, all caused by premature stop codons.

After installing the engineered suppressor tRNA, enzyme activity in the Batten and Tay-Sachs models rose to 17-70% of their normal levels. In Niemann-Pick C1 models, cells produced measurable amounts of full-length NPC1 protein, which is otherwise absent when there's a nonsense mutation.

Results in mice

To evaluate PERT in a living organism, the team used AAV9 to deliver the prime-editing components into newborn mice. AAV9 is a common gene-therapy vector, a harmless virus repurposed as a microscopic delivery vehicle to ferry genetic cargo into cells. The goal was to use it to convert a natural mouse tRNA gene into a suppressor tRNA *in vivo* and assess its ability to restore protein production.

In the Hurler syndrome mouse model, PERT restored 1.7-7% of normal enzyme activity in the brain, heart, and liver. While modest, these levels are known to meaningfully reduce disease severity. Treated mice also showed better cellular pathology and no signs of toxicity.

"The authors present strong laboratory evidence showing that their engineered tRNA approach can restore protein function in multiple models, which is an important advance," Dr. Chakraborty said. But he also emphasised the practical limitations: "Key challenges remain, particularly around delivery, long-term safety, and performance across different tissues, before this strategy can realistically move toward patients."

Yet these early successes have offered some momentum. The first clinical use of base editing in an individual reported earlier this year involved a *TAG* stop codon. The case showed that established delivery methods like viral vectors can carry gene-editing tools into the necessary tissues. This means PERT has a viable path to the clinic.

(Manjeera Gowravaram has a PhD in RNA biochemistry and works as a freelance science writer. gmanjeera@gmail.com)

A parishioner of Yatsurugi Shrine cracks the ice with an axe on Lake Suwa in Nagano prefecture, January 29. AFP

'Godless' lake in Japan warns of climate crisis

Agence France-Presse

The Japanese priest and his parishioners gathered before dawn, hoping that climate change had not robbed them of the chance to experience an increasingly rare communion with the sacred.

The few dozen men, most in their sixties, were headed to Nagano's Lake Suwa in search of a phenomenon called "God's Crossing" that has gone from reliable to elusive in recent decades.

Known as "*miwatari*" in Japanese, it occurs when a crack opens up in the frozen lake surface, allowing shards of thinner ice to break through and form a ridge where local deities are believed to cross.

For centuries, the priest of the nearby Yatsurugi Shrine has led an annual watch for the crossing, contributing to a unique record of a changing climate.

This year's watch began on January 5, with Kiyoshi Miyasaka – a priest in Japan's Shinto religion – leading the flock. One man carried a worn flag, another a giant axe. They set out with hope, despite a seven-year stretch in which the God's Crossing has not appeared once.

The God's Crossing has not appeared since 2018, and a study indicates that this is because morning temperatures have failed to fall enough for the lake to freeze over

"This is the start of the decisive 30 days," Miyasaka told them.

But as they neared the water, dark and choppy in the pre-dawn light, Miyasaka's staple smile disappeared. "How pitiful," he said, lowering a thermometer into the water.

Miyasaka's predecessors noted when the entire lake surface froze, and when the *miwatari* appeared. More recently, priests have added temperature readings and ice thickness. Consecutive records date all the way back to 1443.

"The chronicle shows data taken at a single location over hundreds of years, and thanks to it, we can now see what the climate was like centuries ago," said Naoko Hasegawa, a geographer at Tokyo's Ochanomizu University. "We find no other meteorological archive comparable to it."

The God's Crossing has not appeared since 2018, an absence that both scientists and believers attribute to climate change.

Traditionally, the ice ridges were believed to represent the path of a god crossing the lake to visit his goddess wife. Scientists explain them a little differently: they appear if the lake surface freezes entirely, which requires several days below minus 10°C.

The ice lid contracts and expands with temperature fluctuations between night and day, opening cracks that fill with shards of newly frozen lake water. They crash against each other, producing a distinctive roaring sound, and sometimes rise to eye level.

Takehiko Mikami, who has studied the phenomenon with Hasegawa, remembers seeing it in 1998: "The surface froze completely to about 15 cm thick. We could walk all the way across the lake to the other shore," said the professor emeritus at Tokyo Metropolitan University.

His research shows the crossing appeared almost every winter until the 1980s, but since then morning temperatures have often failed to fall enough for the lake to freeze over.

For a time, this year's season brought hope. On January 26, after weeks of frigid dawn observations, Miyasaka and his flock recorded a full freeze, smiling in delight as a chunk of ice was carved for the priest to measure. But the surface melted days later before the God's Crossing could appear.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The science hidden in proverbs and idioms

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

What's the proverb based on the following fact? Fresh-cut grass is mostly water, and if you bale it while it's still too wet, the bale can grow mould, lose nutrients, and sometimes become warm enough to catch on fire. So before it is baled, it's typically dried under sun and dry air.

QUESTION 2

When you constantly monitor the passage of time, it can seem to pass more slowly. Psychologists call this _____ time perception. Its 'opposite' is retrospective time perception, and it's the basis for the saying "a watched pot never boils". Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3

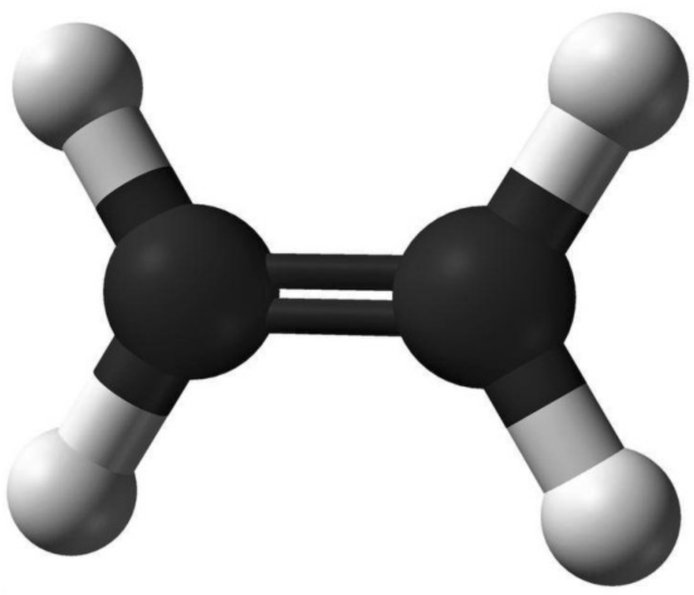
The saying "cold hands, warm heart" refers to the fact that when you're cold, the X nervous system narrows small blood vessels in the fingers, reducing warm blood flow to the extremities and keeping hands from losing heat to the environment. As a result, your hands cool down but your body maintains the temperature of vital organs. Name X.

QUESTION 4

"Bad money drives out good" because when two forms of money have the same face value but one has higher real value, e.g. a note that people trust more, people tend to spend the worse one. Over time, the better money disappears from everyday transactions because it's hoarded. What is this economic principle called?

QUESTION 5

"The straw that broke the camel's back" is akin to _____ _____ in climate systems: when they're crossed, the system starts to accumulate changes faster and in irreversible ways. Fill in the blanks.



VISUAL: Name this hydrocarbon. It's the reason "one bad apple spoils the bunch": as an apple ripens, it releases more of this compound, which causes nearby fruit to ripen faster. PUBLIC DOMAIN

Answers to February 12 quiz:

1. What Darwin originally studied at University of Edinburgh – **Ans: Medicine**
2. Vessel onboard which Darwin developed his scientific ideas – **Ans: Beagle**
3. Author of essay on population that inspired Darwin – **Ans: Thomas Malthus**
4. Scholar who independent arrived at idea of natural selection – **Ans: Alfred Russell Wallace**
5. 1871 book where Darwin introduced idea of sexual selection – **Ans: The Descent of Man**

Visual: **Julia Margaret Cameron**

First contact: Tamal Biswas | K.N. Viswanathan | Kanakpriya Verma | Prem Raj P. | Appa Rao M.V.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Three killed in separate road accidents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A two-year-old boy was killed after a speeding car rammed a scooter and ran over him, near Kithaganur Main Road on Sunday evening.

The incident occurred at around 6 p.m. when Vijayalakshmi and her son Badri were travelling on a two-wheeler along with two-year-old Trishan.

While the scooter was halted in traffic, a car knocked down the scooter. Due to the impact, the child fell on the road, following which the car reportedly ran over him.The injured child was immediately taken to a private hospital in Bhattarahalli, where he was declared dead.The police have registered a case, and further investigation is under way. The K.R. Puram traffic police also arrested the driver, identified as Krishna Mohan Menon, and charged him with causing death due to negligence and for rash and negligent driving.

In another incident, a 45-year-old woman, who sustained grievous injuries after being hit by a truck in the limits of Adugodi Traffic Police Station, succumbed to injuries on Sunday night. The accident occurred on Sunday when Amala was returning home from church with her son, riding pillion. A truck rammed the vehicle, causing her to lose balance and slip under the truck. The truck reportedly ran over her legs, crushing both of them. She was shifted to a hospital for treatment. However, she succumbed late in the night.

The Adugodi traffic police have registered a case and are investigating the circumstances leading to the accident.

In a third incident, a 35-year-old pedestrian was killed after a two-wheeler knocked him down while he was crossing the road in HAL on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Rajesh Sardar, a native of Assam. He was working at a hotel and was on his way home after work when the accident occurred. He sustained severe injuries from the impact and died. A case has been registered at the HAL Traffic Police Station and further investigation is on.

Assistant professor found dead at home

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 37-year-old assistant professor, identified as Saraswathi, allegedly died by suicide at her residence on Friday, with her husband accusing the school principal of abetment and sustained harassment.

As per the complaint filed by Vinodkumar V. Nandaragi, professor and husband of the deceased, on Friday morning, both left for work. Around 3.30 p.m., Saraswathi allegedly called her husband and informed him that the school principal had humiliated her. Later, he was informed that she had locked herself inside the bedroom. He rushed home, forced open the door and found her dead. She was shifted to a hospital, where doctors declared her dead.

A note was reportedly found in the house, allegedly holding the principal responsible for her death. The police registered a case and initiated an investigation into allegations of abetment to suicide.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN at 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help.)

Spa owner 'abducted'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 28-year-old spa owner was allegedly abducted within the limits of the Electronics City police station on Sunday.

The victim was identified as Ashith Jha, 28, a native of Bihar. He was running a spa in Begur, in partnership with others.

According to the police, Jha was returning home on a motorcycle along with the manager, Manukumar, when four unidentified men intercepted them, by allegedly ramming the bike.

They then allegedly assaulted Jha with a wooden log before bundling him into the car and fleeing the scene.

Manukumar managed to escape. The Electronics City police rushed to the spot and conducted a preliminary inspection.

A case has been registered. Efforts are on to trace the victim.

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ELIGIBILITY
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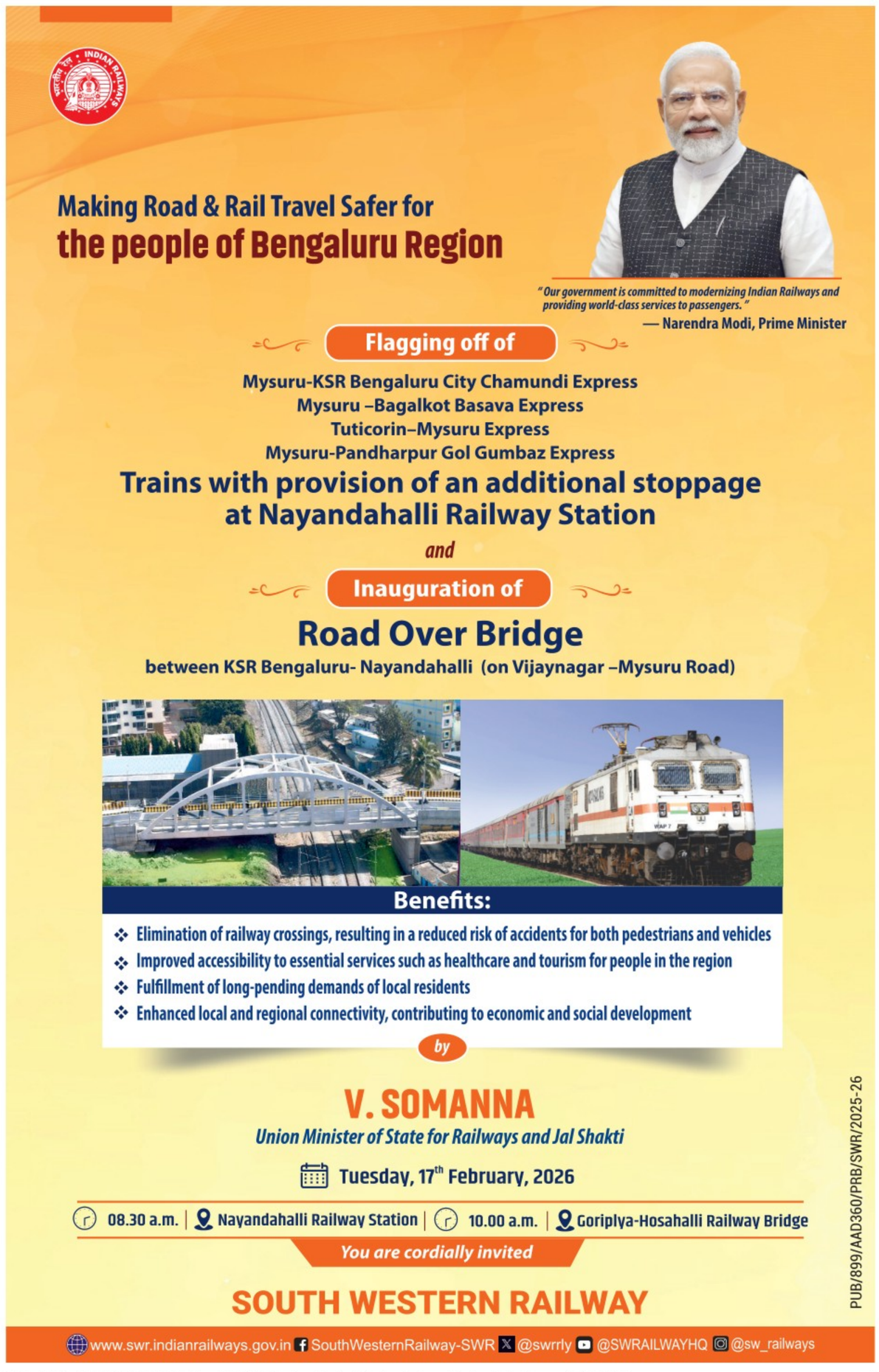
A First class degree in B.Tech/B.E./B.S./ B.Pharm/ B.Arch/B.Des/ B.FTech/ Four years B.Sc./M.Sc./ MCA/ MBA, OR
An equivalent to having completed at least two courses in Mathematics and one in Computer Programming at the qualifying degree level.
Qualifying Examination
CAT/GATE/GMAT/GRE/JAM scorecard obtained in the last three years, or DMAT (Data Science and Management Aptitude Test), which will be conducted in two phases — March 29, 2026 (Phase-1) and June 07, 2026 (Phase-2) — with the option to appear either online or offline exclusively at IIT Indore campus.
Last date to apply:
March 19, 2026 (Phase-1), June 01, 2026 (Phase-2)
Online classes will commence on August 12, 2026
For details, visit: https://msdsm.iiti.ac.in
Contact- 0731-2439736/ 666 or 0731- 6603333- 3128/5593
Email id: msdsm-office@iimidr.ac.in, msdsm-office@iiti.ac.in



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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of private hospitals' licence cancelled in U.P.

178 Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak said that the licences of 178 private hospitals in the State were cancelled, of which the licences of 59 hospitals were revived after a hearing. Mr. Pathak said, "Around 500 complaints were received..". PTI

The amount paid to farmers affected by rains in Gujarat

9,610 in ₹ crore. Gujarat governor Acharya Devvrat said the State government has disbursed ₹9,610 crore as part of a special agricultural relief package to more than 33 lakh farmers affected by unseasonal rains last year. PTI

Quantity of sugar India has exported till February 2025-26

2.01 In lakh tonnes. India has exported 2,01,547 tonnes of sugar through February in the current 2025-26 marketing year, with the UAE being the top destination. Sugar exports remain under government control through quotas distributed proportionally among mills. PTI

Number of tourist arrivals recorded in Kerala in 2025

2.58 In crore. Kerala tourism Minister P. A. Mohammed Riyas said that 2025 witnessed the highest number of tourist arrivals in Kerala's history. Compared to 2024, an additional 28,95,002 tourists visited Kerala in 2025. Domestic tourist arrivals increased by 12.64%. PTI

Indian fishermen apprehended by the Sri Lanka Navy

25 The Sri Lanka Navy apprehended 25 Indian fishermen for allegedly poaching in the island nation's territorial waters. The fishermen were apprehended and seized in Sri Lankan waters off Kankesanthurai, Jaffna, the Navy said. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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A separate classification for denotified tribes

Why were Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes classified as 'criminal' groups in the colonial era? What did the Idate Commission recommend? What was the problem with the SEED scheme rolled out by the Social Justice Ministry? Why do community leaders demand a separate classification for DNTs?

EXPLAINER

Abhinay Lakshman

The story so far:

On January 30, the Union government assured community leaders from Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (DNTs) that the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India had agreed to enumerate these communities in the upcoming second phase of the Census due in 2027. However, with no clarity on how this enumeration will be conducted, leaders of these communities are organising to push for their demand for a "separate column" for DNTs in the Census form. This demand has found support from academics and scholars, who have noted that the demand for a Census count of DNTs has been reiterated time and again by successive Commissions that have been set up to examine their condition in society.

New group: A demonstration demanding de-notified tribes community certificate in Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, in 2025. G. KARTHIKEYAN

THE GIST

The communities referred to as denotified, nomadic, and semi-nomadic tribes were, at one point, classified as "criminal" by colonial administrators, who had concluded that there were certain communities "addicted" to committing crimes.

In 1998, author Mahasweta Devi and scholar G.N. Devy constituted the Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes-Rights Action Group (DNT-RAG), the work of which had led to a technical advisory group on DNTs, and the eventual formation of the first National Commission for DNTs.

The Social Justice Ministry, eventually, also rolled out the SEED scheme for livelihood, education, housing, and health interventions for DNTs. But the government has been able to spend only a fraction of its intended ₹200 crore spending over the last five years.

Who are the DNTs?

The communities referred to as denotified, nomadic, and semi-nomadic tribes were, at one point, classified as "criminal" by colonial administrators, who had concluded that there were certain communities "addicted" to committing crimes. This was codified in the Criminal Tribes Act (CTA), first introduced in 1871, the same year that synchronous Censuses began in India.

The CTA, 1871, was introduced for the "registration, surveillance and control of certain criminal tribes and eunuchs", describing "criminal tribes" as a "tribe, gang, or class of persons" that are "addicted" to committing non-bailable offences. While introducing the legislation, then Member of Law and Order, T.V. Stephens had said that, "the special feature of India is the caste system... Keeping this in mind, the meaning of professional criminal is clear. It means a tribe whose ancestors were criminals from times immemorial, who are themselves destined by the usages of caste to commit crime and whose descendants will be offenders against law..."

It was only in 1952, that the Government of India officially repealed the CTA, which had by that time been amended a couple of times. The repeal of the Act had led to the denotification of communities classified as "criminal" under the CTA, leading to these groups becoming known as the DNTs.

However, in the same year, India saw the introduction of various habitual offender laws throughout the States, which, while doing away with the hereditary definition of people being compelled to commit crimes, classified certain people as "habitual offenders", leading to the continued targeting of these communities – this time not as "criminal" but as "habitual offenders".

What is the history of their enumeration?

While both the CTA and synchronous Censuses in India began in 1871, it was from 1911 onwards that Census reports started discussing "criminal tribes" specifically. Provincial Census reports from 1911 and 1931 provide an insight into the enumeration of these communities, where they were specifically classified as such. The 1931 Census was, however, the last time these communities were accounted for in the Census exercise. Since the repeal of the CTA and the denotification of the communities, specific enumeration of these communities was done away with in subsequent Censuses, given the Republic's conclusions at the time that it was not necessary to enumerate castes (apart from Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST)) in Censuses.

But the state's effort to account for these communities had begun even before their official denotification, with the establishment of the Ayyangar Commission in 1949. Since 1952, by which time the concept of backward classes apart from SCs and STs had been introduced, several of the denotified communities were accommodated in these lists as "*Vimukt Jatis*". Eventually, the decades after India's Independence saw a majority of the denotified communities being assimilated into the SC, ST, or the Other Backward Classes (OBC) lists.

In 1998, author Mahasweta Devi and scholar G.N. Devy constituted the Denotified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes-Rights Action Group (DNT-RAG), the work of which had led to a technical advisory group on DNTs, and the eventual formation of the first National Commission for DNTs, headed by B.S. Renke. The Commission submitted its report on recommendations to uplift DNTs in 2008. Following this, another national Commission was set up under the leadership of Bhiku Ramji Idate, which submitted its report in 2017. All Commission reports on the subject of DNTs began with the question of identifying and classifying them, before noting that a full, accurate classification and identification exercise was not possible until a Census count was conducted for these communities.

The latest assessment of the communities in the Idate Commission's report had identified close to 1,200 communities that were DNTs, noting that all of these communities had been assimilated into the existing classifications of SCs, STs, and OBCs. Apart from this, the Commission had identified about 268 other denotified communities that had not been classified at all. A NITI Aayog-commissioned study conducted by the Anthropological Survey of India on these 268 communities had recommended their classifications. But this report has gone into cold storage.

What is their status now?

While in many States, DNTs have been incorporated into backward classes lists, and in SC and ST lists, where certain benefits of policies like reservations may have trickled down to them owing to selective application of sub-classification, State governments have formulated policies specifically targeting them as well. However, community leaders have argued that despite this, the stigma they had been subjected to continued even after their denotification, through the operation of laws like the Habitual Offenders Act. They argue that this led to their continued discrimination, and that they remained largely socially, economically, educationally, and politically backward, except for a few denotified communities that were settled and had used available resources to uplift themselves to a certain extent.

Even though the Idate Commission report had recommended a permanent National Commission for the DNTs, the first Narendra Modi-led government had decided that, since most of these communities had already been included in SC, ST, and OBC lists, a Welfare Board would be sufficient to address their concerns.

The Social Justice Ministry, eventually, also rolled out the SEED scheme for livelihood, education, housing, and health interventions for DNTs. But the government has been able to spend only a fraction of its intended ₹200 crore spending over the last five years. A principal problem with implementing this scheme was that it required an identification of a beneficiary as a DNT, which required them to have a DNT certification that need not be exclusive of the SC, ST, or OBC identities (if they were already included in these lists). The loudest complaint of the community across States has been that they are not being issued DNT certificates despite continuous reminders and letters from the Central government, with government data showing that only select districts in about half a dozen States issue these certificates.

This has only fed the movement of DNTs across many parts of India seeking a separate Constitutional classification for themselves on par with the SC, ST, and OBC categorisations, arguing that this would then lead to uniform issuance of DNT certificates. Further, this movement has also called for sub-classification within the specific DNT list to recognise uneven backwardness of communities within this grouping.

Moreover, community leaders and associations like the All India Denotified Nomadic Tribes Development Council have been framing their struggle for a separate classification as the need to have their specific discrimination and stigmatisation recognised by the State. In doing so, they have argued that the only reason colonial administrators labelled them "criminal" was because of their insistence on resisting foreign aggressors. Many community leaders have also noted that they had been the first line of defence even before colonialism, and had histories of resisting Islamic rulers as well.

What now?

Apart from assurances to community leaders that they will be counted, there has been no indication as to how this enumeration will take place.

DNT associations have made their demand clear that they want a specific column or question in the Census forms to classify people as DNTs. This demand has found support from scholars like Mr. Devy, who have consistently argued for a separate Census for the DNTs.

However, so far, the Union Government's public statements have indicated that it is not considering any proposal for a separate classification for the DNTs.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, FEB. 17			
RISE	06:41	SET	18:26
RISE	06:29	SET	18:24
WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18			
RISE	06:41	SET	18:26
RISE	07:10	SET	19:16
THURSDAY, FEB. 19			
RISE	06:40	SET	18:26
RISE	07:49	SET	20:08

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	32	16
Bengaluru	31	16

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C Morning will be very cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be cool.

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Rohith Vemula Act against caste bias on campuses stuck in red tape

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Although rounds of discussions were held, and the draft finalised, the Karnataka government is yet to table it in the legislature. PTI

For the last two years, the Congress-led government of Karnataka has moved slowly on the implementation of the Karnataka Rohith Vemula (Protection of SC/STs from Caste Discrimination in Higher Educational Institutions) Bill 2025. The legislation was a promise in the Congress manifesto for 2024 Lok Sabha polls and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi wrote to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in 2025 calling for enacting the law at the earliest. The debate on the proposed law has again come to the forefront after the Supreme Court stayed the University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations 2026, followed by agitations both for and against the regulations.

Mavalli Shankar, State convener, Karnataka Dalit Sangharsha Samiti, said the samiti plans to petition the Chief Minister, demanding enactment of the law in the upcoming Budget session of the Karnataka legislature. "According to the UGC statistics, atrocities against SC/ST students on campuses have increased by 118.4% in the last five years. These students need proper legal protection to pursue higher education with dignity, and the Rohith Vemula Bill 2025 is a solution to this issue. On the one hand, the UGC regulations have been stayed, and, on the other, the Congress government is unnecessarily delaying enactment of the Act," he said.

After the suicide of Rohith Vemula, a Dalit PhD scholar at Hyderabad Central University, on January 17, 2016, allegedly due to caste-based discrimination, there was a clamour for the implementation of the Rohith Vemula Act. A draft of the Bill prepared by the Law, Justice and Human Rights Department, Government of Karnataka, proposed to safeguard the right to education and dignity of SC, ST, OBC, and minorities. However, this has been opposed by Dalit groups vehemently. There are many differences between the discrimination faced by OBC and minority students, and the discrimination faced by SC/ST students. If necessary, separate laws should be enacted to prevent atrocities against OBC and minority students, or the anti-ragging laws should be further strengthened, they have argued. In this regard, pro-Dalit organisations, led by Minister Priyank Kharge, have urged the government to implement the Rohith Vemula Act 2025 exclusively for SC/ST students. "The Rohith Vemula Bill-2025 is still under discussion. The draft has been finalised. There have been many discussions with stakeholders, including the Campaign for Rohith Act team. We have decided to implement the Act only for SC/STs. In the meantime, the UGC has included OBCs in their recently implemented Act. Therefore, we aim to ensure that this law does not become redundant," said Minister for Higher Education M.C. Sudhakar.

A civil society group, Campaign for Rohith Act, has submitted a draft of the Rohith Vemula Bill, to the government. It is learnt that the government has considered most of the points in this Bill in the final draft. Although several rounds of discussions were held, before the draft was finalised, the government is yet to table it in the legislature.

The draft Bill has now been sent to the Social Welfare Department for their opinion, following which the government would table the Bill, sources said. "The draft has been prepared by the Law Department. The Higher Education Department has decided to seek the opinion of the Social Welfare Department on the draft. The framework for SC and STs is with the Social Welfare Department. Therefore, their opinion is necessary. It may come up for discussion during this Budget Session," Mr. Priyank Kharge told *The Hindu*.

THE HINDU
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Crocodile captured

YADGIR: Forest Department staff captured a crocodile from a tank in Kanekal village in Yadgir district on Sunday. The Forest Department staff launched the operation at 6 a.m. and captured it by 10 p.m.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND WATER SUPPLY DEPARTMENT
DIRECTORATE OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION, CHENNAI-28. Tel: 044-29864447
Notice for Inviting Tender (NIT)
(Roc.No. 25245/2025/P1, Date: 16.02.2026)

1. Tenders are invited from the eligible bidders for Selection of concessionaire for redevelopment of old bus stand along with commercial development on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis (for 45 years) under PPP Mode at Namakkal, Tiruchirappalli, Hosur and Tiruvannamalai Corporations and Selection of concessionaire for development of commercial complex at Erode Central Bus Stand on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (DBFOT) basis (for 45 years) under PPP mode at Erode Corporation.
2. The details of tender can be obtained from web portal: **https://tntenders.gov.in**
3. The RFP document can be downloaded from **19.02.2026** at the e-tendering Website **https://tntenders.gov.in**
4. Pre-submission meeting will be held on **04.03.2026** at **3.00 pm** in the in the Directorate of Municipal Administration, Urban Administrative Building, 75, Santhome High Road, MRC Nagar, Chennai-28.
5. The last date for queries is up to **6.00 pm** on **04.03.2026.**
6. The last date for downloading the RFP and the last date for uploading/ submission of bids is up to **3.00 P.M** on **02.04.2026.**
7. The bids will be opened through online at **4.00 pm** on **02.04.2026** at the office of concerned Corporations.
8. The value of each work, the details of Earnest Money Deposit and the eligibility of bidders shall be referred from RFP document.

DIPR/ 1132 /TENDER/2026
Chief Engineer,
Directorate of Municipal Administration, Chennai-28.

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ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Bid Identification No.Civil/EST-38/2025-26 : TCN No.3098, dt.03.02.2026
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Block level Stadium, Ghasipura Block under Keonjhar District with O&M for 05 years
2. Value of the Work (Approx. Excluding O&M) : Rs.13.68 Crore.
3. Period of completion : 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
4. Availability of tender online for Bidding :
i. Start Date : 18:00 Hours of dt.19.02.2026
ii. End Date : 15:00 Hours of dt.09.03.2026
iii. Opening date : 16.00 Hours of dt.09.03.2026.

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in **e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website.**
4001/31/2526
Sd/- Chief General Manager (Civil) IDCO, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-4001/4075/1/25-26/0011

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Bid Identification No. Civil/EST/30/2025-26 : TCN No.3161, dt.03.02.2026
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Block level Stadium (with Indoor Hall) in Tangarpalli Block under Sundargarh District.
2. Value of the Work : Rs.1365.36 lakhs
3. Period of completion : 9 (Nine) Calendar Months
4. Availability of tender online for Bidding :
i. Start Date : 18:00 Hours of Dt.18.02.2026
ii. End Date : 17:00 Hours of dt.05.03.2026
iii. Opening date : 11.30 Hours of dt.06.03.2026.

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in **e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website.**
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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Bid Identification No. Civil/EST-39/2025-26 : TCN No.3080, dt.03.02.2026
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Block level Stadium, Saharapada under Keonjhar District with O&M for 05 years
2. Value of the Work (Approx. Excluding O&M) : Rs.12.42 Crore.
3. Period of completion : 09 (Nine) Calendar Months
4. Availability of tender online for Bidding :
i. Start Date : 18:00 Hours of Dt. 19.02.2026.
ii. End Date : 15:00 Hours of dt.09.03.2026.
iii. Opening date : 16.00 Hours of dt.09.03.2026.

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in **e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website.**
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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Bid Identification No. Civil/EST/31/2025-26 : TCN No.3170, dt.03.02.2026
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Block level Stadium (with Indoor Hall) in Bonai Block under Sundargarh District.
2. Value of the Work : Rs.1293.51 lakhs
3. Period of completion : 9 (Nine) Calendar Months
4. Availability of tender online for Bidding :
i. Start Date : 18:00 Hours of Dt.19.02.2026
ii. End Date : 17:00 Hours of dt.06.03.2026
iii. Opening date : 11.30 Hours of dt.07.03.2026.

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in **e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website.**
4001/25/2526
Sd/- Chief General Manager (Civil) IDCO, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-4001/4075/1/25-26/0007

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಸ್ಮಾರ್ಟ್ ಸಿಟಿ ಲಿಮಿಟೆಡ್
HUBBALLI DHARWAD SMART CITY LIMITED
Special Purpose Vehicle for Implementation of Smart City Project
(Registered Company No. CIN : U7499KA2017 PLC 101265

PROVIDING TRANSACTION ADVISORY SERVICES FOR APPOINTMENT OF O & M OPERATOR FOR INTEGRATED SPORTS COMPLEX AT HUBBALLI.

HDSCL intends to appoint a Consultant from the Transaction Advisors (TA) empanelled by Infrastructure Development, Ports amp; Inland Water Transport Department (IDPamp;IWTD), Government of Karnataka vide Notification No. IDD 120 ITS 2021 dated 13.02.2023 under Category B Projects (for projects with capital outlay of gt; INR 100 Crore and lt; INR 200 Crore), under Social amp; Commercial sector. The selected Consultant shall provide transaction advisory services for appointment of Oamp; M Operator for Integrated Sports Complex at Hubballi. on PPP mode in accordance with the scope of services as envisaged in the Terms of Reference of this RFP document. The assignment is divided in 3 stages - Preparation of Project Documents, Bid Process Management and Appointment of Development Partner.

The IDPamp; IWTD empanelled Transaction Advisors (vide Notification No. IDD 120 ITS 2021 dated 13.02.2023 under Category B Projects (for projects with capital outlay of gt;INR 100 Crore and lt; INR 200 Crore), under Social amp; Commercial sector) may submit their Request for Proposals (RFP) for providing the services to HDSCL through the KPPP platform of GoK at the following URL: **https:kppp.karnataka.gov.** in portal - home.

Complete Documents shall be submitted through E-Procurement Portal of Karnataka on or before **27.02.2026.** The Documents are available from **17.02.202**6 onwards. Manual Documents shall not be accepted. For further details and information please contact **+91-9886698956**, DGM Hubballi-Dharwad Smart City Ltd, Hubballi.

DIRP/DWD/1236/2025-26/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY
Sd/-
Managing Director
Hubballi Dharwad Smart City Ltd.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN): U40109PB2010SGC033813;
website: www.pspcl.in, Contact Number 9646123323

Tender Inquiry No. PPR-04/2026 **Dated : 12.02.2026**

Chief Engineer / PP&R Organization, Shed No. D-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender under three-part bid system for banking of power from interstate utilities / traders, Traders having valid Inter State Trading Licence issued by CERC for interstate trading of energy, State Electricity Boards, State Electricity Utilities, States from **1st March 2026 to 10th October 2026**. For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from **12.02.2026 onwards**.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

C 235/26 1079/12/2025-26/8374

IndianOil LNG
INDIANOIL LNG PRIVATE LIMITED
(A JV company of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd)
REGD OFFICE: Level 8, Indian Oil Bhavan,
139, Nungambakkam High Road, Nungambakkam,
Chennai - 600 034, TN: Web: https://indianoillng.com

EOI No: IOLPL/2025-26/PT-03/Polymer Compounding **Date: 17-02-2026**

IOLPL invites EOI from interested parties for partnering to set up **POLYMER COMPOUNDING UNIT** in India through a Joint Venture Model.
EOI documents can be downloaded from our website from 17-02-2026 10.a.m onwards and Last date for submission is 09-03-2026 5.p.m (both days inclusive). Any Addendum / Corrigendum / Sale date extension in respect of above EOI shall be issued on our website: 'https://indianoillng.com; only and no separate notification shall be issued in the press. An online meeting for seeking clarification regarding EOI is scheduled on 25th Feb 2026 at 3:00 p.m. and interested parties may join the meeting via link to be published in the website.
Interested parties are therefore requested to regularly visit our website to keep themselves updated. For clarifications, please mail to ennorelng@indianoillng.in

TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED (TCGL)
(A Government of Gujarat undertaking)
Udyog Bhavan, Block No. 16, 4th Floor,
Sector - 11, Gandhinagar - 382 011
Website: https://www.gujarattourism.com

TENDER NOTICE

Bids are invited from reputed and experienced parties towards **"Selection of Agencies (legal entities / groups of individuals) for Conceptualization and Design of Souvenirs & Mementoes for Gujarat Tourism".**
The project requirements, technical specifications, eligibility criteria, selection process, etc. are included in the Tender documents, which shall be available for download from the websites: **https://tender.nprocure.com/** and **https://www.gujarattourism.com** from **17/02/2026 onwards.**
The last date for submission of the **Technical Bid and Financial Bid (online only) is 16/03/2026 up to 6:00 pm. and Technical Bid (physical only) is 18/03/2026 up to 3:00 pm.**

Managing Director

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ
KMCRI/SUP(5)/Cardiology/Tender-01/496/2025-26 Dated 16.02.2026
KMCRI/SUP(5)/Gen. Medicine/Tender-01/497/2025-26 Dated 16.02.2026

ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಇವರು **ಅರ್ಹ ಟೆಂಡರದಾರರು, ಉತ್ಪಾದಕರು, ಅಧಿಕೃತ ವಿಜೆಂಟ್ ಮತ್ತು ಅಧಿಕೃತ ವಿತರಕರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಆರ್.ಐ. ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಅವಶ್ಯವಿರುವ Cardiology ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ Rotablator** ಮತ್ತು **Gen Medicine ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ECMO** ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಉಪಕರಣಗಳನ್ನು **ಪೂರೈಸುವುದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ** ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1999 ಶಾಸನ 2000 ಅನ್ವಯ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು, ಪ್ರೊಸೆಸಿಂಗ್ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://ww.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಯು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- (ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು)
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the below mentioned landowners are the absolute owners of lands measuring 1 acre 16 ½ guntas in Survey No 36/3, 19.08 guntas in Survey No 87/1, 19.08 guntas in Survey No 87/2, 19.08 guntas in Survey No 87/3, 19.12 guntas in Survey No 88/1, 9.12 guntas in Survey No 88/2, 1 acre 08 guntas in Survey No 88/3, 10 guntas in Survey No 88/4, 19 guntas in Survey No 89/1, 19 guntas in Survey No 89/2, 19 guntas in Survey No 89/3 and 19 guntas in Survey No 89/4 situated in Chinnakempanahalli Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, which is more fully described in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter to as the "**Schedule Property**".

Any person having any subsisting claim, right, title or interest, in respect of the Schedule Property or any part thereof, in any manner including by way of sale, transfer, assignment, exchange, charge, tenancy, sub-tenancy, lease, sub-lease, license, mortgage, inheritance, share, gift, devise, lien, maintenance, easement, encumbrance, trust, covenant, possession, beneficial interest or pre-emption or under any agreement or other disposition or under any suit or award passed by any Court or Authority, arbitrator, *lis-pendens*, power of attorney, bequest, FSI, development rights, partnership, family arrangement or settlement or otherwise encumbrance of any nature howsoever ("**Claim**"), are hereby requested to respond with documentary proof to the undersigned within 10 (Ten) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, it shall be presumed that no such Claim exists and if it existed, the claimant has relinquished such Claim and/or waived their right to exercise such Claim.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Sl No	Sy No	Extent	Landowner	Boundaries			
				East By	West By	North By	South By
1	36/3	1 acre 16 ½ guntas	Mr V G Shrinivas and Mr Ashwath Gowda, sons of Mr Late Gopalappa	Sy. No. 87/1 of Chinnakempanahalli	Road leading to Kundana	Beerasandra Village Boundary	Sy. No. 36/2 of Chinnakempanahalli
2	87/1	19.08 guntas	Mr V G Shrinivas and Mr Ashwath Gowda, sons of Mr Late Gopalappa	Sy. No. 87/2 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 36/3 of Chinnakempanahalli	Beerasandra Village Boundary	Sy. No. 88/1 of Chinnakempanahalli
3	87/2	19.08 guntas	Mr Venkategowda, Mr Ramanjinappa, Mr Lakshmanna, Mr Ramanna	Sy. No. 87/3 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 87/1 of Chinnakempanahalli	Beerasandra Village Boundary	Sy. No. 88/2 of Chinnakempanahalli
4	87/3	19.08 guntas	Mr C Munegowda son of Late Mr Munianjinappa	Sy. No. 87/4 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 87/2 of Chinnakempanahalli	Beerasandra Village Boundary	Sy. No. 88/3 of Chinnakempanahalli
5	88/1	19.12 guntas	Mr V G Shrinivas and Mr Ashwath Gowda, sons of Mr Late Gopalappa	Sy. No. 88/2 & 88/4 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 36/2 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 87/1 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 89/4 of Chinnakempanahalli
6	88/2	9.12 guntas	Mr C Munegowda	Sy. No. 88/3 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 88/1 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 87/2 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 88/4 of Chinnakempanahalli
7	88/3	1 acre 08 guntas	Mr Venkategowda, Mr Ramanjinappa, Mr Lakshmanna, Mr Ramanna	Sy. No. 94 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 88/2 & 88/4 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 87/3 & 87/4 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 89/2 & 89/1 of Chinnakempanahalli
8	88/4	10 guntas	Ms Umadevi, Ms Vrinda, Ms Chandana	Sy. No. 88/3 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 88/1 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 88/2 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 89/3 & 89/2 of Chinnakempanahalli
9	89/1	19 guntas	Mr Venkategowda	Sy. No. 103 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 89/2 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 88/3 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 38 of Chinnakempanahalli
10	89/2	19 guntas	Ms Umadevi, Ms Vrinda, Ms Chandana	Sy. No. 89/1 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 89/3 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 88/3 & 88/4 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 96 of Chinnakempanahalli
11	89/3	19 guntas	Mr Venkategowda, Mr Ramanjinappa, Mr Lakshmanna, Mr Ramanna	Sy. No. 89/2 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 89/4 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 88/1 & 88/4 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 96 of Chinnakempanahalli
12	89/4	19 guntas	Mr V G Shrinivas and Mr Ashwath Gowda, sons of Mr Late Gopalappa	Sy. No. 89/3 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 36/1 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 88/1 of Chinnakempanahalli	Sy. No. 96 of Chinnakempanahalli

Date: 17/02/2026
Place : Bangalore

Sd/-
Khaitan & Co LLP
Embassy Quest, 3rd Floor, 45/1, Magrath Road
Bengaluru-560 025
T: +91 80 43397000

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC), Zone-2, Room No-315,
Third floor, Mini Vidhana Soudha, Yelahanka, Bangalore-64.
Tend No: EE/QA/QC/Z-2/BNCC/TEND/06/25-26 Date: 16/02/2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION CALL-2
(TWO COVER SYSTEM) (Only through KPP Portal)
Website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The Executive Engineer, Quality Assurance / Quality Control division, Zone-2, Bengaluru North City Corporation (BNCC) invites Request for Proposal from interested persons / firms those who have done similar type of work for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality control (PMC) for the below works:

Sl. No.	Name of work
1.	**Comprehensive Development and Improvements of Roads and Drains in Anjan Murthy Circle to MLA Layout, AECS Layout, KGE Layout, Maruthi Layout, HIG Colony and Muneshwara Temple, Railway Colony, Lottegolahalli, Basaveshwara Layout, Geddalahalli and Surrounding areas in Ward No. 61. Radhakrishna Temple, Ashwatha Nagar, Basaveshwara Layout, Bhoopsandra, Postal Colony, Nagshettyhalli, KEB Layout and Surrounding areas in Ward No. 62, Sanjaynagar, 4th, 5th Main SBM Layout Anand Nagar, Traffic Police Station to UAS Layout, Chowdiah Block, SSA Service upto Seethappa Layout, Vinayaka Layout, S S A Cross Roads and Surrounding areas in Ward No. 63. Hebbal and M.R. Garden, Patel Muniyappa Layout, Gangamma Layout, Kanakanagar and Surrounding areas in Ward No.64, Vishwanath Nagenahalli (WardNo 61,62, 63 & 64, 4 Works, Package NO-01.** Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): **1900.00.** EMD : **Rs.40,000.**
2.	**Comprehensive Development and Improvements of Roads and Drains in Arallappa Layout, Guddadahalli, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar and Surrounding areas in Ward No. 64, Vishwanath Nagenahalli, Sunrise Colony. Seethappa Layout, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, Nanjamma Lavout, Hanuman Lavout, Sanaulla Layout and Surrounding areas in Ward No. 65, Manorayanapalya, HMT Layout, Beerappa Block, Dinnur and Surrounding areas, Ex- Servicemen Colony, Kousar Nagar, Seethappa Layout, Bhuvaneshwari Nagarand Surrounding areas in Ward No.66, Chamundinagar (Ward No 64, 65 & 66 Package NO-02).** Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): **1600.00.** EMD : **Rs.34,000.**
3.	**Comprehensive Development and Improvements of Roads and Drains in Ganganagar Extension, Mutthappa Block. Pappanna Block, HMT Layout Phase 1 and Surrounding areas, Vasanathappa Block, Giddappa Block, HMT Layout Phase 2 and Surrounding areas in Ward No. 67, Ganganagar, 14th, 6th Cross 1st Block RT Nagar, 6th Main Road, 15th, 16th and 17th Cross Road 2nd Block RT Nagar, Dinnur, Ajappa Block and Surrounding areas, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th Cross Roads Matadahalli and Mariyappa Block, Lingappa Block and Surrounding areas in Ward No. 68, JC Nagar (Ward No 67 & 68 Package NO-03).** Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): **1500.00.** EMD : **Rs.31,500.**
4.	**Improvements to Drains, Footpath and Resurfacing of Roads and Connecting Roads of Ward 61-Radhakrishna Temple Ward and Ward No 62 Sanjaynagar, in Hebbal Assembly Constituency, Bengaluru North City Corporation, under CMIDP Scheme 2025-26 (Package-01).** Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): **1000.00.** EMD : **Rs.21,000.**
5.	**Improvements to Drains, Footpath and Resurfacing of Roads and Connecting Roads of Ward 63-Hebbala and 65 Manorayanapalya in Hebbal Assembly Constituency, Bengaluru North City Corporation, under CMIDP Scheme 2025-26 (Package-02).** Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): **1000.00.** EMD : **Rs.21,000.**
6.	**Improvements to Drains, Footpath and Resurfacing of Roads and Connecting Roads of Ward 64-Vishwanatha Nagenahalli, in Hebbal Assembly Constituency. Bengaluru North City Corporation, under CMIDP Scheme 2025-26 (Package-03).** Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): **1000.00.** EMD : **Rs.21,000.**
7.	**Improvements to Drains Footpath and Resurfacing of Roads and Connecting Roads of Ward 66-Chamundinagar and 67 Ganaganagara, in Hebbal Assembly Constituency, Bengaluru North City Corporation, under CMIDP Scheme 2025-26 (Package-04).** Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): **1200.00.** EMD : **Rs.25,500.**
8.	**Improvements to Drains, Footpath and Resurfacing of Roads and Connecting Roads of Ward 68-J C Nagar, in Hebbal Assembly Constituency, Bengaluru North City Corporation, under CMIDP Scheme 2025-26 (Package-05).** Project Cost (Rs. in Lakhs): **800.00.** EMD : **Rs.17,000.**

Calendar of Events: 1. Tender Documents can be downloaded from E-Portal on **18-02-2026, 4:00 p.m. 2.** Pre-bid Meeting: **20-02-2026 @ 11.30 a.m. 3.** Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders: **25-02-2026 up to 4:00 p.m. 4.** Opening of Technical bid: **26-02-2026 at 4:30 p.m.**

Sd/-, Executive Engineer, (QA/QC), Zone-2, Bengaluru North City Corporation.

CACHE

GETTY IMAGES

How district cooling can ease India's climate and urban planning troubles

District cooling is a centralised system that supplies air-conditioning to a cluster of buildings. Instead of every building running its own chillers, one large plant makes chilled water and sends it through insulated underground pipes to many buildings

Manish Dubey
Prasad Vaidya

With rising temperatures, longer heatwaves, and a rapidly growing urban economy, cooling in India is rapidly shifting from a lifestyle choice to a basic need, driving up air-conditioner use in homes and workplaces. This surge is now a major part of cities' power demand, in turn raising concerns about blackouts and higher emissions and about keeping urban areas livable. In this context, planners and experts are looking at district cooling as a way to keep people comfortable while using less electricity and emitting less carbon.

A central cooler

District cooling is a centralised system that supplies air-conditioning to a cluster of buildings, like a shared air-conditioner for an entire neighbourhood or campus. Instead of every building running its own chillers or rooftop units, one large plant makes chilled water and sends it through insulated underground pipes to many buildings, much like a public utility such as piped natural gas or electricity.

Inside each building, this water passes through heat exchangers, cools the indoor air by absorbing heat, then returns slightly warmer to the central plant, where it's cooled again and sent back into the network. Buildings therefore don't need to install or operate large cooling systems. They simply draw 'cooling as a service' from the network.

Like other utilities, district cooling usually follows a multi-part tariff: a one-time connection charge to join the network, a fixed demand charge based on the maximum cooling capacity, and a consumption charge based on actual cooling energy used.

Efficiency gains

District cooling plants use large, high-efficiency chillers and cooling towers to deliver more cooling from each unit of electricity than individual building systems. They typically supply chilled water at about 6-7°C and receive it back at around 12-14°C, after it has absorbed heat. Many systems use thermal storage so that 20-40% of the cooling can be produced at night, when demand and tariffs are lower.

Together, these choices allow well-run systems to operate roughly twice as efficiently as many stand-alone building chillers, cutting electricity use for cooling by 30-50% and reducing peak demand on the grid by 20-30%. These efficiency gains translate into important environmental benefits. Lower electricity use means greenhouse gas emissions can fall by roughly 15-40% while concentrating equipment in a one unified plant can cut refrigerant volumes in buildings by up to 80%, reducing leak risks. At the street level, fewer small outdoor units spewing hot air outside can also mitigate the urban heat-island effect.Some districts abroad have already reported local temperature drops of 1-2°C where such systems operate.

Water use is often raised as a concern, especially in water-stressed cities. In district cooling systems, the chilled water circulating between the plant and buildings runs in a closed loop and consumes very little water. A district cooling plant of about 10,000 tonnes of capacity typically requires a little over one kilolitre of make-up water during cooling tower operation. Because these systems are built at scale and centrally managed, they can also be designed to use treated sewage or wastewater.

Making sense

All of this connects directly to India's National Cooling Action Plan. Using less power for cooling and shifting part of the load to the night eases pressure on the grid, improving energy security and reducing the risk of outages during heatwaves, when people most need cooling.

Lower emissions and easier use of low/zero global warming potential refrigerants in central plants support India's climate goals and its Kigali commitments to phase down hydrofluorocarbons while reliable, high-quality cooling underpins the growth of services, IT, hospitals and data centres in dense urban areas. By freeing up rooftops and indoor space otherwise taken up by cooling equipment, district cooling can also help cities use urban land better, making it a tool of comfort as much as climate action and smarter urbanisation.

District cooling works best where cooling demand is high, dense, and predictable. This makes it suitable for commercial districts, transit-oriented corridors, airports and aerocities, hospitals, universities, and IT parks. In India, Navi Mumbai, Hyderabad's financial districts, Ahmedabad's GIFT City, and parts of Bengaluru are often cited as strong candidates because they combine new development, dense commercial loads, and planned infrastructure.

Business case

For operators, district cooling is a utility-style business with revenue typically coming from a one-time connection charge, a fixed demand charge, and a variable consumption charge. The model can be financially attractive if there are enough long-term customers and city planning offers certainty about future demand.

For customers, cooling can account for 30-50% of electricity use in many commercial buildings, and by using energy more efficiently and sharing infrastructure, district cooling can cut operating costs by about 20-40% over the life of a project.

Not having to install separate chillers and cooling towers in each building can also save developers 5-10% of project cost and unlock 1-2% extra usable or saleable space. Utility-grade reliability (often above 99.9%) is also a major plus for hospitals and data centres.

The main concern is the fixed demand charge: customers pay for reserved capacity even if the building is partly empty.

If they over-estimate their needs or have inefficient internal systems that waste chilled water, bills can feel high, making good building design and right-sizing of contracts crucial.

For electricity utilities, the primary benefit is lower peak load from air-conditioning during hot afternoons. District systems use large, efficient chillers, benefit from diversity where different buildings peak at different times, and often include thermal storage to shift 20-40% of cooling production to the night, helping flatten daytime peaks. This allows utilities to avoid or defer new peak load plants and reduce purchases of expensive peak power.

Economy of scale

To move to a real network of district cooling systems, many players need to work together. Urban authorities should demarcate district cooling zones in master plans, set aside land for plants and pipe corridors, and coordinate underground utilities.

Municipal bodies need to be empowered and strengthened to introduce clear concession rules, service standards, and long-term frameworks so private players know how they will recover investments.

Likewise, state electricity regulators and DISCOMs can consider shifting loads from day to night as a formal demand-side resource, link it to tariff design, and recognise the value of avoided peak capacity. Central agencies can also issue standard technical guidelines and model PPP contracts while developers design new buildings with ready connection points and compatible internal piping.

GIFT City in Gujarat has already demonstrated district cooling. Studies here have suggested full deployment could reduce power demand by around 6,100 MW, save about 7,850 GWh annually, and avoid roughly 6.6 million tonnes of CO_2 emissions each year.

With effective coordination and clear governance frameworks, Indian cities can replicate and expand such examples, transforming cooling from a climate vulnerability into a cornerstone of sustainable, resilient urban infrastructure.

Prasad Vaidya is Advisor, Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS). Manish Dubey is Chief-Practice, IIHS.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

As the T20 World Cup is in the middle stage of the group matches, here is a quiz on the coaches of the participating nations

Soorya Prakash. N

QUESTION 1
Which country has the maximum number of coaches in the ongoing T20 World Cup?

QUESTION 2
Which country's current coach has won the T20 World Cup title twice, both as captain?

QUESTION 3
Who played in the inaugural ODI World Cup in 1975 but is now coach of another country?

QUESTION 4
Out of the 20 participating countries, only seven nations have a coach who has played for their country. Among these seven, only two have not played any international matches. Who are they?

QUESTION 5
Out of the 20 participating countries, only six nations have retained the same coach who was also in-charge of their team in the 2024 World Cup. However, there are three other coaches who have moved from one country to another when compared with 2024. Who are they?

Visual question:
He was the manager of the World Cup winning Indian team in 2007 and is now coach of this participating team in the 2026 T20 World Cup. Name him. TH

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. McEnroe was born in this European country. **Ans: Then West Germany**
2. McEnroe's first Slam success came at the French Open in 1977 with this partner. **Ans: Mary Carillo**
3. McEnroe beat this player in 1983 to win his second crown at The Championships. **Ans: Chris Lewis of New Zealand**
4. He holds the record for best single-season win-loss record among men in the Open Era in this year. **Ans: 1984**
5. McEnroe claimed 57 titles with this player. **Ans: Peter Fleming**
6. This phrase is the title of one of his autobiographies. **Ans: 'You Cannot Be Serious'**
7. This actor played John's role in the 2017 film *Borg vs McEnroe*. **Ans: Shia LaBeouf**
Visual: Name this Oscar-winning actress. **Ans: Tatum O'Neal**
Early Birds: Neil Lall| Arun Kumar Singh| Sumana Dutta| Sukdev Shet| Abhiroop Bose

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the meaning of "hors-de-combat"?
This rather formal French expression has appeared quite frequently in newspapers, thanks to the conflict in Kargil. If a soldier is "hors-de-combat", it means he has been wounded and will therefore be unable to take part in the fighting. If a player is "hors-de- combat", his injury prevents him from taking part in an event.

What is a brother born to the same father, but a different mother called?
A boy who has the same father or the same mother as you, is your "half-brother". You and he are related by blood because you have a parent in common – it could be the mother or the father. In the case of a "step-brother", on the other hand, you and your brother do not share a common parent. You and he are not related by blood because your biological father and mother are different from his biological father and mother. When two people who have children from an earlier marriage tie the knot, the kids get either a step-brother or a step-sister, not a half-brother or a half- sister.

What is the meaning of "flummox"?
Remember the last time somebody asked you something and you were so confused that you didn't know what to say or do? Well, you were flummoxed. The word "flummox" means to be totally confused about something.

Here are a few examples: The Minister was flummoxed by the reporter's question. During the interview little Anirudh looked flummoxed.

The first syllable "flum", which has the main stress, rhymes with the words "slum", "glum" and "plum". The "o" in the second syllable is like the "a" in "China".

Is it O.K to say, "Cats, dogs, and cows, etc. are domestic animals"?
No, it is not. The word "etc" means "and other things". Since "etc." includes the meaning "and" you do not put an "and" before it. The correct way of writing your sentence would be: Cats, dogs, cows, etc. are domestic animals.

Here are a few more examples. Cheetahs, lions, tigers, etc. belong to the cat family. We need napkins, paper plates, etc. for the party.

What is the meaning and origin of "an albatross round the neck"?
An albatross is a large bird which you usually find at sea. Sailors believe that it is very unlucky to kill one of these birds. Samuel Taylor Coleridge's poem "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" written in 1798, tells the story of a sailor who kills an albatross. As soon as the bird is killed, things begin to go terribly wrong on the ship. The wind dies and the sailors soon run out of water. The angry shipmates hang the dead albatross round the sailor's neck as a sign of his guilt. Although the sailor repents and is forgiven, the killing of the bird haunts him all the time; it becomes a heavy burden. So when you say you have an albatross round your neck, it means you have a great burden, a sense of guilt that you like to get rid of.

Published in The Hindu on August 10, 1999.

Word of the day

Delectation:
a feeling of extreme pleasure or satisfaction; act of receiving pleasure from something

Synonyms: delight, enjoyment

Usage: *Here is some ice cream for your delectation.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/delectationpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌdiːlɛkˈteɪʃən/, /ˌdɪlɛkˈteɪʃən/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

1000 DAYS

A Meaningful Journey

Mega projects for Bengaluru on the anvil

While providing roads, electricity and drinking water facilities in rural areas, Siddaramaiah Government is also working towards infrastructure development in urban areas

The Siddaramaiah Government is striving to maintain a balance between rural and urban development. While providing roads, electricity and drinking water facilities in rural areas, it is also working towards infrastructure development in urban areas. Mega projects worth Rs. 1.5 lakh crore are being planned for Bengaluru city.

The metro network is being systematically expanded. Water supply to 110 villages has commenced under the Cauvery Phase-V project. Progress has begun on the Bengaluru Business Corridor, and efforts are being made to improve the city's transport system.

Drinking water projects are being undertaken across 227 local bodies in the State. The Chief Minister's Amrut Nagarothana – Phase IV scheme is under implementation with an outlay of Rs.3,885 crore.

Electricity availability critical for progress

Availability of electricity is crucial for national progress. The Government has implemented the Gruha Jyothi scheme, providing free electricity up to 200 units. Along with this, several power generation projects are being implemented in the State. In the first ten months of the current financial year, 28,000 million units of electricity have been generated.

This year, 41,208 distribution transformers, 10,943 km of high-tension lines, and 6,382 km of low-tension lines have been installed. Power connections have been provided to 11,727 borewells.

Agreements have been entered into to purchase 3,704 MW from private companies. Additionally, State-owned companies have prepared action plans to newly generate about 4,794 MW of power.

Self-reliance of Gram Panchayats Karnataka ranks first in the country in the decentralisation index. The Government is actively working towards the self-reliance of Gram Panchayats. Rural road development has been taken up. The e-Swathu software has been implemented to ensure easy access to property records. To ensure transparent administration, online counselling is being successfully conducted for transfers of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department staff.

Along with welfare programmes, Karnataka has also undertaken comprehensive infrastructure development initiatives. To promote airports, suburban rail projects and inland water transport, a State Maritime and Inland Waterways Master Plan worth Rs. 23,094 crore has been prepared. The Karnataka Inland Water Transport Policy – 2024 has been implemented. Labourers are the creators of national wealth. To provide free education to children of construction and other workers, 42 residential schools are being started.

To provide safe housing for dependents of these workers, six residential complexes have been built in five districts of the State. This year, Rs. 1,115 crore has been spent for the welfare of 14.34 lakh construction workers, including health check-ups.

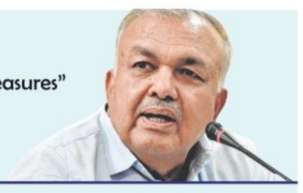
Bringing smiles on the faces of farmers

This year, farmers protested stating that prices for mango, maize and other crops were low, and that the price being paid for sugarcane was insufficient.

The Siddaramaiah Government immediately stood with the farmers and resolved the issues. Sugar mill owners were directed to pay fixed prices to sugarcane farmers, and the Government decided to provide additional support of over Rs. 300 crore. Similarly, in response to farmers' demands to open turdal procurement centres in December instead of January, the Government responded positively and opened the procurement centres.

The Government is currently making efforts to supply 7 hours of continuous three-phase power during daytime to farmers' pump sets. In view of changing circumstances, large subsidies are being provided for mechanised sugarcane harvesting. Farmers are now relying on machines to harvest crops such as ragi, paddy and maize. Assistance is being provided under agricultural mechanisation schemes as well. Including 2025-26, the Government has provided over Rs. 10,000 crore to farmers in the form of subsidies and other support.

"Our government's people-centric vision is truly inspiring the Nation, empowering women and fuelling development with social welfare measures"



Ramalinga Reddy,
Minister for Transport & Muzrai.

"Having taken the oath for the second time on May 20, 2023, Shri Siddaramaiah's successful completion of 1,000 days on February 14, 2026, is a moment of pride for the people of the state. Heartfelt congratulations to Shri Siddaramaiah, popularly known as the "Champion of Bhagya Schemes," on this auspicious occasion. Shri Siddaramaiah has integrated the principles of Jagajyothi Shri Basaveshwara into his political life, emphasizing social justice, equality, and women's empowerment"

Basavaraj Rayareddy,
MLA and Economic Advisor to the Chief Minister.

Land records digitised and secured

At a mega convention in Haveri, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar and Revenue Minister Krishna Byregowda, launched 'sixth guarantee', the Bhoo Suraksha scheme. The title deeds of properties were distributed to beneficiaries.

Digital Security and Modern Mapping

The complication of paperwork is now a thing of the past. Under the Bhoo-Suraksha project, more than 67 crore pages of land records have already been digitised and secured. The fear of someone creating fake documents is gone because 'Your Land' is now digitally protected.

* Land Beat: To protect government land, 13.5 lakh acres have been surveyed and reserved using modern technology.

* Drone Survey: For the first time in history, re-surveys are being conducted using drone technology. Every inch of land mapping is now accurate and transparent.

Swift Justice and Rights for the Landless

By implementing an online system for Revenue Courts, cases are being disposed of transparently and rapidly.

* Case Resolution: Out of a total of 2,99,610 cases in various revenue courts, 2,69,132 cases have already been resolved.

* Revenue Villages: Families living in undocumented Tandas, Hattis, and Hadis finally have a permanent address. 6,742 undocumented settlements have been identified as Revenue Villages.

* Title Deeds (Hakku Patra): Two lakh digital title deeds and one lakh manual title deeds have been distributed to bring these families into the mainstream. At the Haveri convention alone, one lakh families are receiving digital title deeds, with a goal to issue another lakh in the coming days.

Governance at Your Doorstep

Under the "Nanna Aasti" (My Property) project, land records are being linked with Aadhaar.

* E-Pauti Movement: Through Aadhaar linking, 50 lakh inheritance (Pauti) cases were identified. Village Administrative Officers are now coming to your doorstep to process these accounts.

* Results: 13 lakh cases have already been cleared through the E-Pauti movement. You no longer need to visit offices for inheritance mutations. This is not just a technical change; it is a revolution that restores dignity and brings peace to the lives of the common man.

* Podhi Campaign: Darkhast Podhi cases are being managed online. Tahsildars have already approved 2 lakh Podhi cases, ensuring rapid disposal.

Global-standard industrial growth is our goal, says M.B. Patil

Question; The government has successfully completed one thousand days in office. During this period, has it set a model for the State's overall development?

The Congress government led by Siddaramaiah completing one thousand days in office is indeed a significant milestone. There is no doubt about that. It is equally important to recall the circumstances under which we assumed power. The people, disillusioned by the previous BJP government's maladministration and emotionally driven, divisive politics, gave us a clear mandate. At that time, the State was virtually on the brink of financial distress.

Restoring stability, rebuilding public confidence and renewing faith in governance were the foremost challenges before us. I can say with confidence that our government has risen to that challenge.

Under your leadership, how has the Department of Large and Medium Industries gained global recognition in attracting investors? How effective has 'Ease of Doing Business' been?

Our guiding principle is not to make mere announcements, but to focus on realistic and achievable outcomes. In line with this approach, we organised a three-day Global Investors' Meet in Bengaluru in February last year. Through this event, we secured investment commitments exceeding ₹10 lakh crore. Of this, ₹6.50 lakh crore has already materialised. We also introduced a new Industrial Policy for the period 2025-30. Exports and manufacturing remain our top priorities.

Several industry-friendly measures have been introduced, with a target of generating 20 lakh jobs over the next five years. In addition, we have implemented a Clean Energy Policy with an ambitious investment target of ₹50,000 crore.

The new Industrial Policy also addresses regional imbalances by offering greater concessions, incentives, subsidies and easier land allotment to investors in districts outside Bengaluru.

In fact, the breadth of structured, sector-specific industrial policies available in Karnataka is unmatched by any other State.

Coming to Ease of Doing Business, we have operationalised a genuine single-window system integrating 130 services under one platform. In collaboration with Microsoft, we have introduced an advanced chatbot system that enables entrepreneurs to track the progress of their applications at various stages.

We have also relaxed and revised FAR (Floor Area Ratio) norms to benefit both industries and farmers.

The Invest Karnataka Forum has been restructured, and nine Vision Groups have been constituted to promote sector-wise industrial growth. Our focus is on elevating the manufacturing sector by encouraging local production in emerging areas such as semiconductors, smartphone manufacturing, laptop production, electronics and electric vehicles.

These initiatives will drive job creation, boost exports, strengthen the economy, enhance revenue generation and ensure sustainable development. Given the intense competition from neighbouring States, such preparedness is essential.

What about government enterprises? How are you focusing on them?

In a society like ours, public enterprises are as important as private industry.

Over the past two and a half years, we have given them renewed focus and direction. As a result, KSDL and MSIL have recorded all-time high turnover and profits. In 2024-25, KSDL achieved a turnover of ₹1,787 crore and a profit of ₹451 crore, 57 new products have been introduced. This year, its turnover is expected to touch ₹2,000 crore.

A new Mysuru Sandal unit is being established in Vijayapura at a cost of ₹229 crore. Our focus is now on expanding into markets in North India, Europe and the Middle East. Efforts are also under way to establish a unit at Dabaspete.

Similarly, under MSIL we have launched a chitfund initiative with a target of achieving an annual turnover of ₹10,000 crore.

A new software platform and mobile application have been introduced to ensure seamless operations.

In the last financial year, MSIL recorded a turnover of ₹3,882 crore and a profit of ₹122 crore. We are also considering opening an MSIL Mall for government employees on the lines of defence canteens. Efforts are under way to revive NGEF in Hubballi and Mysore Paints & Varnish as well.

You are also in charge of Infrastructure Development. What have you achieved in this area?

The two departments I oversee complement each other. With this understanding, we are expanding airport and railway networks across the State. Vijayapura airport is ready for inauguration. Letters have been written to the Central Government seeking international status for the airports at Hubballi and Belagavi.

Steps have been initiated towards the construction of a second airport in Bengaluru, with progress at various stages. We are also engaging with the Centre for the faster implementation of railway projects and the expansion of suburban rail connectivity to towns within a 100-150 km radius of Bengaluru.

I have strongly advocated for the Bengaluru-Mumbai High-Speed Rail Corridor, which will bring substantial benefits to Karnataka. All these initiatives will create significant opportunities for industrial growth across the State.

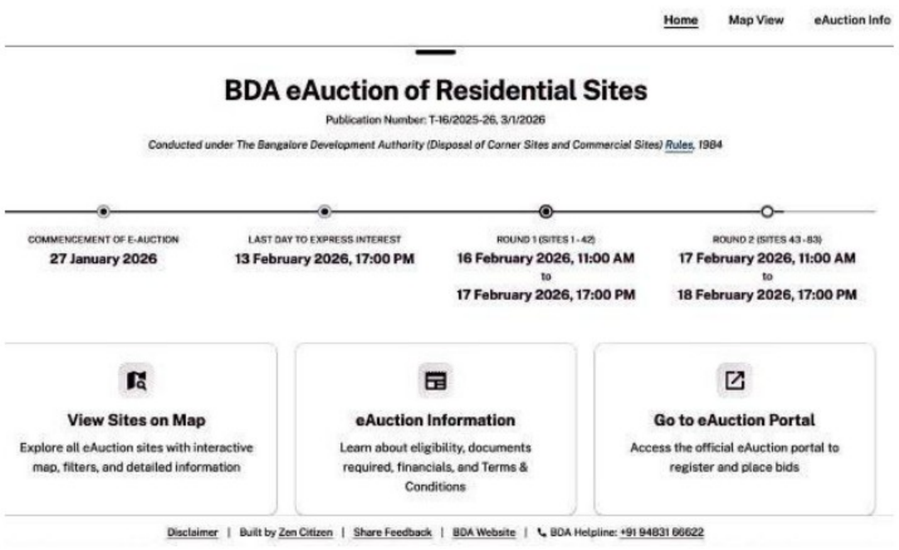
BDA revamps e-auction communication with the help of citizen collective

The new interface is optimised for mobile viewing; BDA's property e-auction platform now features an interactive interface with a map view, filters, and a search option

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

No more sifting through dense clutters of text for information on sites being auctioned by Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA). The government agency has revamped its e-auction communication with the help of Zen Citizen, a citizens' collective, to make the information clearer, seamless and transparent.

The BDA's property e-auction platform now features an interactive interface with a map view, filters, and a search option. Information has been reorganised, making key details easy to find. The new interface is also optimised for mobile viewing.



A screenshot of the revamped version of the BDA's property e-auction platform.

Swift action

The communications from the BDA on auction of sites have been conventionally publicised in newspapers and on the BDA website and social media handles. Information-heavy multi-page PDF formats were used on all channels, often leaving a viewer confused and overwhelmed.

"We learnt that the poor UI in auction communication is often by design to discourage broader participation and limit the auction to a close insider circle," said Vineeta K., founder, Zen Collective.

The team reached out to the BDA, and in early January 2026, discussions on revamping the platform began. Priti Pandurangan, a volunteer with the Zen Citizen, worked on designing and developing the module and delivered it by January 24.

Initially hosted on the Zen Citizen website, the pages were integrated to the BDA website by February 5 and can now be viewed on eauctions.bdakarnataka.in. The BDA has also drafted a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to ensure that the portal is updated and continues to be used for upcoming e-auctions by the staff on their own.

As part of improving the platform, the content was thoroughly studied and instructions and terms and conditions were rewritten in simple language.

While it was challenging to consolidate information spread across multiple departments, Ms. Vineeta hoped that other departments would also make use of the open-source code. Speaking to *The Hindu*, a senior BDA official welcomed more such volunteers to work with the organisation to help improve the system.

"The BDA has very less manpower and knowledge is not updated, there is no incentive for that. Innovation normally comes from the private sector. We will be happy if more people would like to come and work with the BDA. We will give them all the support so that it will benefit the public," said the official.

BNP launches 'B-resolve' to report civic problems

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) on Monday launched a new initiative called 'B-Resolve' to help citizens address everyday civic problems. The initiative is aimed at encouraging residents to report issues in their neighbourhoods and work towards getting them resolved in a systematic manner.

Through this, the citizens can report concerns such as potholes, broken footpaths, drainage problems, garbage issues and faulty streetlights using a digital dashboard available on the BNP website (https://nammabnp.org/). Complaints can also be shared through ward-level WhatsApp groups. The dashboard allows residents to track the status of their complaints in real time. Every week, teams in every area will review the issues received and escalate them either through the government's Sahaya app or by directly approaching municipal officials concerned, the press release stated.

The BNP said the idea behind the initiative is to ensure that no area is ignored. Srikanth Narasimhan, founder and general secretary of the BNP, said the initiative is supported by experienced civic practitioners and subject experts who guide the teams based on their experience in resolving civic matters on the ground.

Four-year-old left asleep in cab reunited with family

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A four-year-old boy who was left asleep inside a cab in Hennur on Friday night was traced and reunited with his family within an hour, thanks to swift coordination by the Bengaluru City Police.

The incident occurred around 8.26 p.m. under the jurisdiction of the Hennur Police Station on Friday. The child had accompanied his mother and five relatives to the ISKCON Temple earlier in the evening. On their return journey, he fell asleep in the back seat of the cab booked by his mother. After reaching their apartment in Ponnappa Layout, the family hurriedly got out and went home, inadvertently leaving the child asleep in the back seat of the vehicle. Unaware that the child was still in the car, the cab driver, left the location and proceeded to attend to two more pick-ups.

A few minutes later, the mother realised that her son was missing and recalled that he had been sleeping in the cab. Her attempts to contact the cab through the call centre proved unsuccessful, following which she alerted Namma 112, the State emergency response system. Upon receiving the alert, Namma-112 personnel informed ASI Manjappa Koppal and Head Constable Satish Kumar, who were on patrol. The team reached the apartment within two minutes and began scanning CCTV footage to identify the cab's registration number.

Using the Mobile Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System app, the police traced the vehicle owner's contact details and, through him, got in touch with the driver.

On checking the vehicle, he found the child sleeping safely. The police instructed the driver not to wake the child and directed him to return to the apartment while monitoring the cab's movement in real time.

The boy was safely handed over to his relieved parents.

BJP flays Congress MLA's remarks

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Condemning Ashok Kumar Rai, Congress MLA of Puttur, for using a derogatory word against Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, on Sunday, the BJP said here on Monday that it has filed a police complaint against Mr. Rai in Puttur.

Addressing pressperson, Satish Kumpala, president of the Dakshina Kannada unit of the BJP, said that the MLA should not have called Mr. Swamy, a senior political leader, such a word. "It does not go well with the stature of an MLA," Mr. Kumpala said. He said politicians of the coastal belt do not subscribe to a culture of using demeaning and derogatory words against anybody.

Mr. Kumpala alleged that Mr. Rai is acting as if previous MLAs of Puttur, irrespective of party, did nothing for the development of Puttur constituency.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2, BENGALURU
4th Floor, BSNL Telephone House Building, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru -560001

PROCLAMATION OF SALE CUM E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

ISSUED UNDER RULE 52(2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 (As Amended From Time To Time)

RC No.1538/2018 in OA. No.1205/2017

KARNATAKA GRAMEENA BANK, (Erstwhile Karanataka Gramin Bank & E.Kaveri Grameena Bank) Sira Branch, Tumkur ....Certificate Holder

V/s

SRI THIMMAIAH & OTHERS .... Certificate Debtors

To: (CD-1) 1) Sri Thimmaiah S/o. Sri Gundappa, Borasandra Village, Guligenehalli, Kasaba Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumkur District - 572 137. **(CD 2) 2. Sri. Ranganath T.,** S/o. Thimmaiah, Borasandra Village, Guligenehalli, Kasaba Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumkur District - 572 137, **(CD 3) 3. Sri. Ramakrishnappa T.,** S/o. Thimmaiah, Borasandra Village, Guligenehalli, Kasaba Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumkur District - 572 137, **(CD 4) 4. Sri. Manjunath,** S/o. Thimmaiah, Borasandra Village, Guligenehalli, Kasaba Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumkur District - 572 137.
.... Certificate Debtors

The under mentioned property will be sold by '**online e-Auction**' through web site: **www.bankauctions.in** on **25.03.2026** for recovery of an amount of **Rs.32,90,026/-** (Rupees Thirty Two Lakhs Ninety Thousand Twenty Six Only) as on 30.10.2025. The futures interest is chargeable at the same rate till realization of debt as per recovery certificate bearing **RC No.1538/2018 in OA No. 1205/2017**

Date, Time of Auction	**25.03.2026 at beween 11.00 A. M. to 12.30 P.M.**
Reserve Price	**For Sy No. 65/P-P4 : Rs.23,00,000/-** (Rupees Twenty Three Lakhs Only) **For Sy No. 277 : Rs.10,00,000/-** (Rupees Ten Lakhs Only)
Earnest Money Deposit	**For Sy No. 65/P-P4 : Rs.2,30,000/-** (Rupees Two Lakhs Thirty Thousand Only) **For Sy No. 277 : Rs.1,00,000/-** (Rupees One Lakh Only)
Bid Increment Amount	**Rs.50,000/-** (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) For Each Property
Last day for Bid Submission	**by 4.00 P.M. on 23.03.2026**

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

Sl. No.	Survey No.	Extent (Acres & Guntas)	Situated at	Boundaries
1	65/P-P4	2 Acre 20 Guntas	Borasandra Village, Kasaba Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumkur District	East by : Land of Sri Thimmaiah West by : Land of Sri Lakshmipathi North by : Land of Sri Jayanna South by : Hosahalli Road.
2	277	1 Acre 03 Guntas	Borasandra Village, Kasaba Hobli, Sira Taluk, Tumkur District	East by : Land of Sri Thimmaiah West by : Land of Sri Lakshmipathi North by : Land of Sri Jayanna South by : Hosahalli Road.

Remarks: As reported by CHB vide affidavit DC No. 10166/2025 dated 16.07.2025,
1. Survey No. Land parcel of 02 Acres 20 Guntas agriculture land in Survey No. 65/P-P4 mutated to New Survey No. 65/*/* vide No. mutation No. T44/2014-15 dated 08.05.2015.

For Terms and condition of sale visit website: **www.bankauctions.in, M/s. Forecloser India Pvt. Ltd., (Contact person: Sri Varun - 8142000809, e mail Id : info@bankauctions.in.**
For further details contact: **Sri Kiran H. N., Chief Manager, Karnataka Grameena Bank, Sira Branch, Tumkur District, Mob: 9164537415 or Sri. Vijay Kumar, Chief Manager, Karnataka Grameena Bank, ARM Branch, Bengaluru mob :9579575790, (e-mailid : br2172@kgbk.in & arm@kgbk.in** for ascertaining the details of property and also for inspection of properties.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal at Bangalore on **21.01.2026.**

Sd/-
Recovery Officer -2
DRT-2, Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-2, BENGALURU
4th Floor, BSNL Telephone House Building, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru -560001

PROCLAMATION OF SALE CUM E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

ISSUED UNDER RULE 52(2) OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961 READ WITH THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 (As Amended From Time To Time)

TRC No.1114/2017 (DCP-7492) of in OA. No.1147/2012

KARNATAKA GRAMEENA BANK, (Erstwhile Karanataka Gramin Bank) Sugatur Branch, Kolar Distirct. ....Certificate Holder Bank

V/s

SRI V. VARADA REDDY & OTHERS .... Certificate Debtors

To: (CD-1) 1) Sri V Varada Reddy, S/o.Sri Venkateshappa, Lakshmi Venkateshwara Nilaya, Tekal Main Road, Jayanagar, Opp. P.G. Hostel, Kolar-563101 **(CD 2) Mr. Venkateshappa**, S/o. Late Mr. Chikkabyrappa, Ankathatti Village, Sugatur Hobli, Kolar Taluk & District. **(CD 3)Mr. V. Byrareddy**, S/o. Mr. Venkateshappa, Ankathatti Village, Sugatur Hobli, Kolar Taluk & District.**(CD 4) Mr. R. Venugopal**, S/o. Mr. S. Rame Gowda, Ankathatti Village, Sugatur Hobli, Kolar Taluk & District. **(CD 5) Mr. S.N. Ramachandrappa**, S/o. Mr. Nanjunda Gowda, Sugatur Hobli, Kolar Taluk & District.
.... Certificate Debtors

The under mentioned property will be sold by '**online e-Auction**' through web site: **www.bankauctions.in** on **18.03.2026** for recovery of an amount of **Rs.3,72,96,936/-** (Rupees Three Crore Seventy Two Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand Nine Hundred and Thirty Six Only) as on 31.12.2025. The futures interest is chargeable at the same rate till realization of debt as per recovery certificate bearing **TRC No.1114/2017 in OA No. 1147/2012**

Date, Time of Auction	**18.03.2026 at beween 11.00 A. M. to 12.30 P.M.**
Reserve Price	**Property No. 1 : Rs.48,00,000/-** (Rupees Forty Eight Lakhs Only) **Property No. 2 : Rs.35,00,000/-** (Rupees Thrity Five Lakhs Only) **Property No. 3 : Rs.33,00,000/-** (Rupees Thrity Three Lakhs Only)
Earnest Money Deposit	**Property No. 1 : Rs.4,80,000/-** (Rupees Four Lakhs Eighty Thousand Only) **Property No. 2 : Rs.3,50,000/-** (Rupees Three Lakhs Fifty Thousand Only) **Property No. 3 : Rs.3,30,000/-** (Rupees Three Lakhs Thirty Thousand Only)
Bid Increment Amount	**Rs.1,00,000/-** (Rupees One Lakh Only) For Each Property
Last day for Bid Submission	**by 4.00 P.M. on 16.03.2026**

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY

1. All that piece of land and parcel of 1 Acres 23 Guntas of land in Survey No.30/2 situated at Ankathatti Village, Sugatur Hobli, Kolar Taluk , Kolara District and bounded by: East by : Narasimhappa Land, West: Government Channel, North: A.G. Mari Gowda Land, South: Hanume Gowda Land.

2. All that piece of land and parcel of 1 Acres of land in Survey No.31/P10 situated at Ankathatti Village, Sugatur Hobli, Kolar Taluk , Kolara District and bounded by: East: Land of Narayana Swamy, West: Govt. Channel, North: Ramachandrappa Property, South: Government Road.

3. All that piece of land and parcel of 1 Acres of land in Survey No.31/P9 situated at Ankathatti Village, Sugatur Hobli, Kolar Taluk , Kolara District and bounded by: East: Hanumappa Land , West:Tyaanna land North: Mariyappa Land, South: Venkateshappa Land.

Remarks: As reported by CHB vide affidavit DC No. 1233/2026 dated 19.01.2026

1. Sy No. 30/2 with extent 01 acres 23 guntas changed to two new Survey No. viz., Sy. No. 30/2A with extent 01 acre 08 guntas and Sy No. 30/2B with extent 15 guntas as per mutation No. T9/2018-19 dated 14.11.2018. Further Sy. No. 30/2B extent 15 guntas, again changed to new Sy. No. 30/4 as per mutation No. T8 dated 11.09.2019.
2. Sy. No. 31/P10 extent 01 acre changed to new Sy. No. 31 as per mutation no T/10 dated 11.10.2017.
3. Sy. No. 31/P9 extent 01 acres changed to new sy. No. 31 as per mutation No. T/10 dated 11.10.2017.

For Terms and condition of sale visit website: **www.bankauctions.in, M/s. Forecloser India Pvt. Ltd., (Contact person: Sri Varun - 8142000809, Mr. Jayaprakash Reddy 8142000066 e mail Id : info@bankauctions.in.**
For further details contact: **Sri Sridhar K. S., Branch Manager, Karnataka Grameena Bank, Sugatur Branch, Kolar District, Mob: 9886969604 or Sri. Vijay Kumar, Chief Manager, Karnataka Grameena Bank, ARM Branch, Bengaluru mob :9579575790, (e-mail id :br829@kgbk.in & arm@kgbk.in** for ascertaining the details of property and also for inspection of properties.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal at Bangalore on **10.02.2026**

Sd/-
Recovery Officer -2
DRT-2, Bengaluru

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANANDA Raj Dindur Chandrashekar, s/o; Chandrashekar Andanappa Dindur, r/o: F–742, 7th Block, 3rd Floor, Prestige Casabella, Basapura Main Road, E–City, Blr–560100. Have changed my name as Anandraj Dindur.

I, L SUBRAMANYA alias Subramanya Lakshminarayana S/o Nanjundiah Lakshminarayana R/o–72/1 3rd Cross The Jak ana Arts Srirampuram Bangalore Karnataka–560021 changed my name to SUBRAMANYA L.

I, ROBIN Joseph, aged 36 years S/o. Crus Moses Joseph, residing at No. 64, Old Cement Line, Austion Town Neelasandra, Bangalore 560047, have changed my name to Naveen Kumar M vide Affidavit dated: 13.02.2026 before Notary S.Samuel Solomon, Bengaluru.

I, VASANTH Kumar Bhawarlal Pirgal. R/a Flat No.404, Nyasa South, SNN Raj Lake View, Phase-1, Ranka Colony, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Road. BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560076 have changed my name to Vasanth Bhawarlal Pirgal vide affidavit dt: 14.02.2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru.

I, KRISHNAREDDY Keshavareddy, R/a No.2681, 31st Main Road, Behind CPWD Quarters, HSR Layout, 1st Sector, Bangalore-560102 have changed my name to Keshavareddy vide affidavit dt: 14.02.2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru

I, Pushpa C Hartimath D/o C S Hartimath residing at #6671, K C Rani Road, Near Old Saibaba Temple, Masari, Gadag, Karnataka - 582101, do hearby declare that Pushpa C Hartimath and Pushpa Hartimath are both names of mine and belong to one and the same person, i.e. myself. Henceforth, I shall be known as Pushpa C Hartimath for all purposes, vide Affidavit IN-KA76047325020791Y dated 09/02/2026 sworn before notary K.P.Kotigoudar Gadag.

I, Kavi Arasi Lazer, spouse of Lazer.J, Army No.14649897M, Rank: Hav. residents of No.138, 'G' Block, Champion Reefs Post, K G F-563117, Kolar District, have changed my name from Kavi Arasi Lazer to Kavi Arasi.K. vide affidavit dated 14/02/2026 duly signed by Thangaraj. S, Public Notary, K G F.

LEGAL NOTICE

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED (See Section 84 BNSS)

Whereas compliant has been made before me that accused person namely Kishor Singh C/o.Bheru Singh, Rajputo Ka vaas, Joyia, Sirohi, Rajasthan, Pin - 307028 has committed the offence in case STC. NO.93/2024 filed U/s.138 of Negotiable Instrument Act. Arrest warrant has been issued to the accused to the jurisdictional police station at Sirohi Police Station, Rajasthan and it has been returned to warrant of arrest there upon issued that the said accused Kishor Singh cannot be found and Whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused Kishor Singh absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant) Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Kishor Singh in STC.No.93/2024 U/s.138 of Negotiable Instrument Act is required to appear before this Court to answer the said compliant on or before 27.02.2026

//By Order//

OFFICE ADDRESS
Anupama Infrastrucre & Export No.3220,7th Block, Arkavathi Layout, K.v.jairam Road, Jakkur, Bengaluru-560064.

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
Kishor Singh,
C/o.Bheru Singh,
Rajputo Ka Vaas, Joyla, Sirohi, Rajasthan-307028.

RAJESHKUMAR
Judical Magistrate,
Fast Track Court at Judicial Magisterial Level, Thiruvallur.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, THOMAS Sajan Zacharia S/o Valliamparampil Varghese Zacharia, R/a NO.198, 2nd Floor, 2nd Cross, Church Road, New Thippasandra, Bangalore-560075 have changed my name to Sajan Thomas Zacharia vide affidavit dt: 16.02.2026 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'lore.

LEGAL NOTICE

CITATION
P&SC No. 25/2025
IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE PRINCIPAL CIVIL JUDGE (SR.DN. BELAGAVI, AT: BELAGAVI
BETWEEN
Smt. Hema W/o Chandrakant Angolkar And others.
.....Petitioners
AND
1) The Authorised Signatory Dynamic Technologies Ltd And others.
.....Respondents
NOTICE UNDER ORDER V RULE 20(1-A) OF C.P.C.

To,
1) The Authorised Signatory, Dynamic Technologies Limited, Regd. Office II, Peeny Industrial Area, Bengaluru-560058.
2) The Authorised Signatory, Kfin Technologies Limited, Salenium Tower-B, 31-32 Gachibowli, Financial District, Hydembad-500032
3) The Director, HINDALCO Industries Limited. Regd. Office at Century Bhavan Dr. Annie Besant Road, Mumnal 400 025.
4) M/s Eddy Current Controls (India) Ltd., Shares Deptt., Regd. Office at Eddypuram, Chalakudy-680 397, Kerala State.
.....Respondents

WHEREAS the above named Petitioners have filed the top noted P & SC Petition before the Principal Civil Judge (Sr.Dn.) Belagavi, Karnataka agamst the above named Respondents for Grant of Succession Certificate on account death of Chandrakant Anagolkar for claiming, the Share amount from Respondents and the above case is posted for Appearance on 10/03/2026 at 11:00 AM and you are directed to appear personally or through Advocate before the said Court on the given Date and Time mentioned above, and to file Objections, if any. Failing which the case will be heard in your absence. Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this the day 11th of Feb 2026 at Belagavi.

By Order of the Court
Sd/- **Sheristedar**
Senior Civil Judge & C.J.M.Court Belagavi
Sd/- **Bench Clerk** (Court Seal)
Sd/- **M. C. GADAG**
Advocate for Petitioners.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Dinesh Singh, R/at : SMQ 247/4, Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560063, have changed by minor child name from Lairikyengbam Thoibisana to Thoibisana Tekcham vide Affidavit dated 13/02/2026 sworn before Notary S.R.Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

I, Lairikyengbam Gayatri Chanu,D/o Dinesh Singh, R/at: SMQ 247/4, Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru-560063, have changed my name from Lairikyengbam Gayatri Chanu to Gayatri Tekcham vide affidavit dated 13/02/2026 sworn before Notary S.R.Ravikumar, Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

COURT NOTICE
In The Court of Civil Judge, Senior Division No. 1st, Jehanabad
Title Partition Suit No. 123/1993
Dr. Birendra Kumar Sharma and one another ... Plaintiffs
Vrs
Sri Bishnu Kumar Sharma and others ... defendants

Notice made to
Vishal son of Sri Ajay Kumar Sharma At present C/o Ajay Kumar Sharma, Hari Das Chatterjee Lane, Gaya Since you are informed by way of notice that Summons has been send by my Court to your name and address by registered post and through process server to appear in this case, but you have not appeared. Therefore, by this notice letter you are finally wanted to appear in person or through your advocate on the **25.02.26 next schedule date at 10.00 A.M.** and make whatever excuses you may have, otherwise a one sided hearing will be conducted in your absence and an order will be passed.
Issued under my signature and the seal of the Court.
Date: 13.02.2026
Civil Judge, Senior Division No. 1st Civil Court, Jehanabad

TENDERS

Oushadhi
The Pharmaceutical Corporation (I.M.) Kerala Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
Kuttanellur, Thrissur-14, Kerala
Ph: 0487- 2459841, 2459807, 2459842
E-mail : purchase@oushadhi.org
P/104/2025-26 Date: 17-02-2026
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-tenders are invited for the supply of **I) Raw Materials** for the period **01-04-2026 to 30-09-2026 and II) Containers & Packing Materials** for the period **01-04-2026 to 31-03-2027.** Tenders can be downloaded from the website **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.** For more details, please visit our website **www.oushadhi.org** or contact our Purchase Division at Kuttanellur.
Thrissur (Sd/-) Managing Director

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client is intending to Purchase the property more fully described at Item No.1 in the Schedule hereunder from its present owners being **Sri. S.R. Sharief and Sri. A.G.A. Sharief**, both sons of late Sri. F.R. Sharief, and Item No.2 in the Schedule hereunder from its present owner **Dr. Javeriya Nahin, D/o. S.R. Sharief**, who have represented that they have a clear and marketable title to their respective properties.

Any person/s financial institutions, statutory authorities or any other persons/s representing any private or public companies or any partnership firm or any society who claim any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule Property and/or has any objections of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned within **Seven (7) days** from the date of issue of this notice with documentary evidence failing which it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and my client would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owners thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ITEM NO 1:
All that piece and parcel of agricultural land measuring 1 Acre 12 Guntas excluding 1 Gunta of karab land in Sy.No.1/2 (earlier forming portion of land in Sy.No.1) of Vaddarapalya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the:
East by: Road
West by: Property bearing Sy.No.16/2 belonging to Savithramma (earlier belonged to Govindaiah).
North by: Property bearing Sy.No.1/3 (earlier land belonged to Smt. Channamma) presently property of Smt.C.Leelavathi.
South by: Property bearing Sy.No.8/1 (earlier land belonged to Sri.Govindaiah).

ITEM NO 2:
All that piece and parcel of agricultural land measuring 1 Acre 12 Guntas in Sy.No.1/4 (earlier forming portion of land in Sy.No.1/1, earlier thereto forming portion of land in Sy.No.1) of Vaddarapalya Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the:
East by: Property bearing Sy.No.2/1 (earlier belonged to Pathaiaha) presently property of Smt. Gayathri Devi
West by: Road
North by: Property bearing Sy.No.1/3 of Smt.C.Leelavathi and Property of Padmanabha Rajanna and Sri.Syed Maqbool Sab.
South by: Property bearing Sy.No.1/1 (earlier land belonged to Smt. Dundamma) presently property of Smt. Gayathri Devi.

B. R. Ravi Kumar
Advocates
No.537, 10th 'B' Cross, Yelahanka New Town, **Bangalore - 560 064**

Study shows promise in intranasal therapy for Parkinson's

This is not just a proposed hope for Parkinson's patients, we have successfully demonstrated in a pre-clinical rat model that this strategy works: Indrani Datta, professor, Dept. of Biophysics, NIMHANS

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

The team used small extracellular vesicles, or exosomes, derived from dental pulp stem cells. These particles can cross the blood-brain barrier and carry therapeutic molecules to injured regions.
PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY

Researchers at NIMHANS have reported encouraging results from a pre-clinical study, in which a non-invasive, intranasally delivered therapy improved motor and biological markers associated with Parkinson's disease in rats.

The disease is characterised by the gradual loss of dopamine-producing neurons in a midbrain structure called the substantia nigra, leading to tremors, rigidity and slowing of movement. Existing treatments largely address symptoms and do not arrest progression.

Funded by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the Department of Science and Technology, the study has been published in Stem Cell Research and Therapy.

It was led by Indrani Datta, professor at the Department of Biophysics at NIMHANS, along with doctoral researchers Kallolika Mondal and Rituparna Ghanty, in collaboration with the Department of Neuropathology.

"This is not just a proposed hope for Parkinson's patients, we have successfully demonstrated in a pre-clinical rat model that this strategy works," Dr. Datta told *The Hindu*. "What makes this particularly exciting is that we have shown, for the first time, that these exosomes can trigger the brain to generate new dopaminergic neurons in the midbrain structure, the very region that degenerates in the disease," Dr. Datta said.

Dental pulp stem cells

The team used small extracellular vesicles, or exosomes, derived from dental pulp stem cells. These particles can cross the blood-brain barrier and carry therapeutic molecules to injured regions.

"Think of exosomes as intelligent courier packages. They can cross the blood-brain barrier and deposit on damaged or inflamed areas, like a GPS-guided delivery system," said Ms. Mondal, first author of the study.

The vesicles were loaded with phloroglucinol, a natural antioxidant, and administered intranasally. "The intranasal route provides a direct highway from the nose to the brain. This bypasses the digestive system and helps the cargo reach the midbrain intact," she said.

Improvements seen

Animals that received the therapy showed better motor coordination and locomotor performance. The researchers reported restoration of dopamine levels, changes in other neurotransmitters, and reduced inflammatory markers. Improvements were also noted in certain non-motor parameters.

"We observed that the exosomes naturally homed to areas of inflammation and injury. Using imaging, we tracked them accumulating in the midbrain, precisely where they were needed," Dr. Datta said.

Rituparna Ghanty said the group found signals consistent with the generation of new neurons. "Previous studies suggested this might be possible, but we have now shown that these vesicles, particularly with phloroglucinol, can trigger dopaminergic neuron formation from the brain's own progenitor cells," Ms. Ghanty said.

Safety and next steps

The researchers did not observe significant accumulation of the vesicles in peripheral organs during the study period. "We found no build-up in the lungs or liver over four weeks," Dr. Datta said. However, the team underlined that several stages of work remain before human testing.

Dr. Datta said four broad areas require attention. These include detailed toxicology and safety assessments such as dose escalation, long-term biodistribution, immunogenicity and tumour risk in at least two animal species. Studies must also test the therapy after the onset of motor symptoms, reflecting real-world clinical scenarios.

In addition, researchers will need to establish a fully standardised GMP manufacturing pipeline with validated batch consistency, sterility, stability and a defined potency assay. Further mechanistic confirmation, including advanced molecular profiling and validation in large-animal models, will be necessary to strengthen confidence in translation.

"For decades we have focused on replacing dopamine or managing symptoms. This approach attempts to help the brain repair itself while reducing inflammation and oxidative stress," Dr. Datta added.

Pink bloom

Cynosure of all eyes: A fully bloomed Tabebuia rosea stands out against houses in Rajarajeshwari Nagar on Monday. The tree's dramatic pink canopy appears after a dry spell followed by warm weather. The leafless, trumpet-shaped blossoms, ranging from pale to deep pink, last only a short period, creating a brief but striking seasonal display. K. MURALI KUMAR

'Quality review for Indira Canteens, city roads to see transformation'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

M. Maheshwar Rao says that food currently served at the Indira Canteens is of satisfactory quality, but acknowledges that there is scope for improvement. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Chief Commissioner of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) M. Maheshwar Rao on Monday said efforts are under way to improve the quality of food served at Indira Canteens, while also outlining plans to improve waste management, road infrastructure and off-street parking facilities in the city.

Speaking to the media at the GBA head office, Mr. Rao said the food currently served at the Indira Canteens is of satisfactory quality, but acknowledged that there is scope for improvement.

The Chief Commissioner noted that a meeting would soon be convened to review and enhance food standards. Describing the programme as a crucial welfare initiative, Mr. Rao said, "It plays a significant role and "alternative" for those who rely on affordable meals from outside, particularly daily wage workers and economically vulnerable groups."

When asked about the introduction of a new menu at these kitchens, Mr. Rao said the proposal could be worked out and would be considered as part of broader efforts to improve quality. He added that authorities are also focusing on identifying new locations across the city to expand the reach of Indira Canteens while improving food standards.

On solid waste management, the Chief Commissioner said a meeting would be held to examine the feasibility of establishing garbage transfer stations in each Assembly constituency. This, he said, would enable garbage collection and segregation at a single location to improve efficiency. He stated that budgets have already been sanctioned for the initiative.

Addressing concerns over road conditions, Mr. Rao said works have been taken up across the city to repair and upgrade roads and that residents could expect a "visible transformation" in road conditions within the next two months.

On parking congestion, Mr. Rao said the GBA is exploring the development of off-street parking facilities in collaboration with the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), and discussions are under way to identify suitable locations for mechanical parking systems. He added that the initiative would be implemented soon.

Properties of tax defaulters in Jayanagar zone to be auctioned on Feb. 21

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

GBA has stated that the tax has not been paid despite giving ample opportunities to defaulters

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) will auction 98 properties belonging to tax defaulters in the Jayanagar zone of the Bengaluru South Corporation

The corporation is due to collect ₹1,55,86,841 in arrears from these properties, and the GBA has stated that the tax has not been paid despite giving ample opportunities to the defaulters.

Notification

Under the GBA Act 2025, all properties within the corporation are required to pay property tax every financial year. The procedure for recovering property tax in cases of non-payment of property tax has been notified under the 'Property Tax Assessment, Recovery and Maintenance Rules 2024', it stated.

According to these rules, show cause notices and property tax demand letters have been issued to the property tax defaulters, and the owners of the cases that remain unpaid even after being given sufficient time have been periodically informed through messages to pay the property tax of their properties.

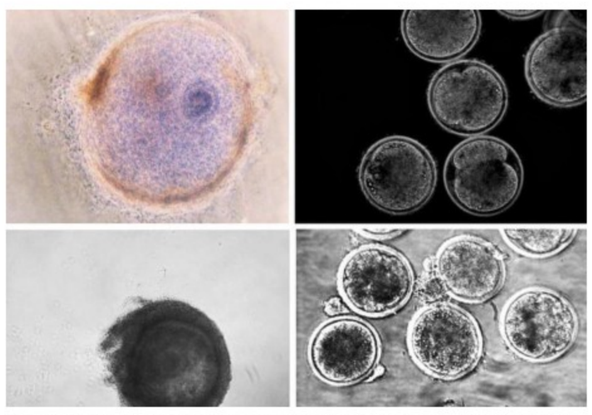
On February 21, the recovery of the arrears will be made through auction from the properties belonging to the tax defaulters, headed by the Zonal Joint Commissioner (Jayanagar Zone) at the Corporation Commercial Offices Building, 2nd Block, Jayanagar, and the information about such properties has been published in the notice board.

Before auction process

"If the property tax on the listed property is paid in full before the auction process, it will be withdrawn from the auction," it added.

Bengaluru scientists explore way to save eggs naturally lost inside the ovary

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU



Globally, live offspring using preantral follicle technology has so far been achieved only in mice, and adapting it for large domestic animals is a work in progress. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Scientists at the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology (NIANP) in Bengaluru are working on a technique to save eggs that are naturally lost inside the ovary at an early stage, before they can ever be used for reproduction.

If successful, the approach in the later stage could help preserve fertility in cancer patients by safeguarding eggs before treatment damages the ovaries. The same technology could also be used in animal breeding to produce more embryos from genetically valuable livestock, according to scientists.

The research focuses on preantral follicles- tiny structures in the ovary that contain immature eggs. These eggs are usually lost as part of a natural process and never reach maturity.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Artabandhu Sahoo, Director, ICAR-NIANP, said, "Scientists are now trying to retrieve these immature eggs early, grow them in laboratory conditions, and use them to produce embryos." At present, assisted reproduction techniques (ART) currently rely mainly on mature eggs, or already formed embryos, which limit how many embryos can be produced from a single animal. Dr. Sahoo explained that this was significant because more than 99.9% of eggs inside the ovary degenerate naturally. By tapping into this early-stage reserve of eggs, researchers could increase the number of eggs available for technologies, such as IVF and cloning, which require eggs to develop embryos. Growing these follicles in the lab also allows scientists to closely control the environment in which the eggs develop, helping improve their quality and survival.

> Scientists are now trying to retrieve these immature eggs early, grow them in laboratory conditions, and use them to produce embryos
> **ARTABANDHU SAHOO**
> Director of ICAR-NIANP

The NIANP researchers, the Director said, have already made progress in applying this technology to livestock. A team led by P.S.P. Gupta, head of the institute's Animal Physiology Division, has produced the first buffalo embryo using eggs grown from preantral follicles. The institute has also developed freezing techniques for preantral follicles in sheep as part of a DST-sponsored Indo-Hungary collaborative project, and is currently working on preserving embryos produced using this method.

Globally, live offspring using preantral follicle technology has so far been achieved only in mice, and adapting it for large domestic animals is a work in progress.

The scientists told *The Hindu* that producing a large number of embryos was key to extending this success to domestic animals. Beyond animal breeding, the technology could also help create embryo banks, support conservation efforts for endangered species, and provide a reliable way to study the effects of environmental pollutants and medicines on female fertility. This could eventually be used to help cancer patients preserve fertility by storing ovarian tissue and immature eggs before treatment begins, the scientists added.

Bengaluru student emerges State topper with 99.99 percentile score in JEE-2026

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A. Vishnu Sai Theja

A. Vishnu Sai Theja secured a score of 99.99 percentile in the Joint Entrance Examination 2026 (JEE Main), Session-1, Paper-1 (BE/BTech) and emerged as the State topper. This time, no candidate from the State secured 100 percentile.

A student of Narayana Co-Kaveri Bhavan, off Sarjapur Road, Bengaluru, Theja, was placed 14th among 43 toppers . He secured 100 percentile in Physics, 99.99 in Chemistry and 99.97 in Mathematics.

"I always aspired to study in Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) or Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru and my interest is in pursuing computer science and artificial intelligence. Now I am preparing for JEE session-2. I studied every day for almost four hours after coming back from college. Our teachers mentored me to face the exams and a lot of mock tests were given to prepare students for the exams," said Theja.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) announced the result of JEE (Main)-2026, session-1 of paper 1 for the entrance of professional courses like BE/BTech in premier technical institutions like Indian Institute Technologies (IITs), on Monday.

This time, a total of 12 candidates secured 100 percentile score. Rajasthan has highest number of top scorers with three students, followed by Andhra Pradesh with two and one student each from Delhi, Bihar, Odisha, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Telangana.

From Page One

Hampi gang rape and murder: three sentenced to death

The attackers pushed the three male tourists into the deep canal before turning on the women and assaulting and raping both of them.

While Daniel of the U.S. and Pankaj of Maharashtra managed to swim to safety, Bibhash Kumar Nayak, a young tourist from Odisha, drowned. His body was recovered days later by Koppal police near a powerhouse gate in Mallapur.

The Koppal police arrested Mallesh and Sai in Gangavati within 48 hours, while Sharanappa was arrested in Tamil Nadu.

The court convicted the trio under Section 103 (1) of the BNS for the murder of Nayak, alongside charges of gang rape and attempt to murder. The First Additional District and Sessions Judge Sadanand Nagappa Nayak noted the extreme brutality of the act. In pronouncing the capital punishment, the court emphasised that such heinous crimes against both domestic and international tourists warrant the maximum penalty.

State notifies 1% welfare fee for gig workers

The amount will be collected from aggregator platforms to provide social security benefits for platform-based gig workers

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has notified the quantum of the welfare fee to be collected from aggregator platforms to provide social security benefits to platform-based gig workers.

While the Karnataka Platform-Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025, mandates a welfare fee of 1-5% of the payout to the worker for each transaction, the government has fixed the fee at 1% per transaction for all services.

The cap per transaction, however, varies for different services.

The cap per transaction, however, varies for different services. FILE PHOTO

For food and grocery delivery services such as Swiggy, Zomato, Blinkit, Zepto, and BigBasket the cap is at ₹0.5.

For ride-hailing services such as Rapido, NammaYatri, and Uber, the cap is fixed at ₹0.5, ₹0.75, and ₹1 for two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and four-wheelers, respectively.

Logistics services like Porter will have to shell out ₹0.5, ₹0.75, ₹1, and ₹1.5 per transaction for two-wheelers, three-wheelers, light commercial vehicles, and heavy commercial vehicles, respectively.

For e-marketplace services, ₹0.5, ₹0.75, and ₹1 have been fixed as the cap for two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and light commercial vehicles, respectively. Professional activity providers like Urban Company have the highest cap at ₹1.5.

Each quarter

According to a Government Order published in the Gazette on February 13, within five working days from the end of each quarter, every aggregator should calculate the welfare fee, self-declare the same, and pay it to the government.

All the payments will be mapped onto a Payment and Welfare Fee Verification System (PWFVS) administered by the State government and monitored by the Gig Workers Social Security Board. According to the GO, the details of the welfare fee collected and spent will be disclosed and made available on the portal.

The bank details for making the payment of the welfare fee will be provided on the website of the Labour Department.

10 courts in Karnataka get hoax bomb threats

The Hindu Bureau
DHARWAD/MYSURU/MANGALURU

Judges being escorted out of the premises of the High Court Bench after the email threat in Dharwad on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Panic gripped some of the court complexes in the State on Monday as a bomb threat email was received by 10 courts, including the Karnataka High Court's Dharwad Bench. This resulted in the police conducting extensive search operations. However, the threat email turned out to be a hoax.

The email threatening of an explosion was sent to the Karnataka High Court's Dharwad Bench and the district courts of Dharwad, Bengaluru South, Mandya, Kodagu, Mangaluru, Uttara Kannada, Hassan, Haveri, and Davangere.

Lawyers and staff were evacuated from the court complex buildings and security checks were carried out, the police said.

In Dharwad, Superintendent of Police Gunjan Arya visited the spot and inspected the High Court Bench premises. The police launched a comprehensive search operation, and as a precautionary measure, everyone was evacuated from the building.

According to the police, personnel from the bomb squad also reached the scene and continued the inspection. Speaking to reporters in Dharwad, Mr. Arya said: "We are conducting an inspection. Only our personnel are inside. The email message said the explosion would occur at 1.15 p.m. We are gathering more information about the remaining details. The message also contained references to different States, so we cannot share further information at this moment."

In Mandya and Kodagu, court proceedings were suspended following the email. Judges, lawyers, litigants, and members of the public were evacuated from the court complex premises as a precautionary measure. "The threat has turned out to be a hoax. We have registered a case and are investigating the matter," said Kodagu Superintendent of Police Bindu Mani R.N.

In Mangaluru too, the city police carried out a search of the district court complex. In a statement, Police Commissioner Sudheer Kumar Reddy said the threat was found to be a hoax.

"The proceedings in the court complex went on as usual. A case was registered with the Mangaluru North police station," Mr. Reddy said.

The Bengaluru South district court received a bomb threat via email around 12.35 p.m., triggering panic on the court premises. According to police sources, the sender claimed that 12 RDX bombs had been planted inside the court complex.

Bomb disposal squads and canine units rushed to the spot and conducted a thorough search of the premises. As a precautionary measure, the court complex was evacuated. After a search, the threat was declared a hoax.

Further investigation is under way.

'Under municipal laws, no licence needed for cinema exhibition'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has held that cinemas do not require a trade licence for exhibiting cinematographic films, as such activity is governed by the licensing framework under the Karnataka Cinemas (Regulation) Act, 1964, and not the Karnataka Municipalities Act, 1964.

However, the court made it clear that any ancillary commercial activities on the cinema premises, including food vending and other business activities, require trade licence under Section 256 of the KMC Act.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj passed the order while partly allowing a petition by Kesari Enterprises, which challenged a notice by the Chintmani City Municipal Council in Chickballapur asking the petitioner to obtain trade licence for operating a cinema. The court pointed out that the KCR Act, 1964 is a special legislation enacted to regulate the exhibition of cinematographic films as it provides a complete statutory mechanism governing grant of licence for cinema theatres, structural and infrastructural compliance, fire safety and public safety measures, and conditions for exhibition and supervisory control by the Deputy Commissioner of the district.

As the KMC Act specifically deals only with 'shooting' of films and 'treating' of films, and the word 'exhibition' of films is not included in this Act for securing trade licence under Section 256, the court should infer that the legislature had consciously not included 'exhibition' of the films under the KMC Act, the court pointed out.

Consequently, the court said, a trade licence under the Section 256 cannot be insisted upon solely for the purpose of exhibition of cinematographic films and the municipal authority is at liberty to regulate ancillary commercial activities on the theatre premises and to recover property tax dues in accordance with law.

While quashing the notice issued to the petitioner to secure trade licence for cinema exhibition, the court said that it would be incumbent on the petitioner to obtain appropriate licences as per law before carrying on such ancillary activities, either directly or through vendors, contractors, or third parties.

'Priyank is targeting RSS to please Cong. high command'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Launching a counter-attack on RDPR Minister Priyank Kharge for his tirade at the RSS, the BJP on Monday accused him of making "immature and irresponsible" remarks against the RSS to please his high command.

Questioning his commitment to the development of his home district Kalaburagi, the BJP leaders alleged that the region that was being politically controlled by Mr. Priyank Kharge and his father Mallikarjun Kharge for several decades had remained the most backward in the State. Taking exception to such allegations, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra described them as "stupid" that could have been made out of frustration and vendetta.

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok said that Mr. Priyank Kharge had made it a habit to attack the RSS owing to an illusion that he could get a prominent position in the party or the government.

Chief Whip of the Opposition in the Legislative Council N. Ravi Kumar accused Mr. Priyank Kharge of targeting the RSS to consolidate his position in Congress.

FKCCI, KASSIA seek infra push, land in KIADB estates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The FKCCI and the KASSIA have urged the State government to strengthen infrastructure in industrial estates developed by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board. FILE PHOTO

The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FKCCI) and the Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA) have urged the State government to strengthen infrastructure in industrial estates developed by the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB). They also demanded that 20% of land in such estates be reserved for micro and small industries and 80% for large units.

At a pre-Budget meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday, office-bearers of the two industry bodies said that the price of land in KIADB industrial areas was beyond the reach of small entrepreneurs.

FKCCI president Uma Reddy requested the government to reduce land prices to support its push for industrial growth in tier-II and tier-III cities under the 'Beyond Bengaluru' initiative.

KASSIA vice-president Ninganna S. Biradar sought a special grant of ₹500 crore for a one-time upgrade of critical infrastructure in industrial estates. He also suggested that at least 50% of the property tax collected from industries be reinvested in infrastructure development within the same industrial area.

FKCCI further called for greater incentives for recycling industries, including subsidised land and additional tax benefits. It also demanded an exclusive state procurement policy for MSMEs to ensure assured markets for local industries.

The chamber proposed hosting the Global MSME Conclave 2026 in Bengaluru in May and sought financial support from the State government. Both bodies also stressed the need to promote tourism, skill development, green energy, enhanced credit flow, and the repeal of outdated laws.

HC sets aside election of Bagepalli MLA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Monday set aside the election of S.N. Subba Reddy, a Congress candidate, to the Legislative Assembly from Bagepalli constituency, for not making a proper disclosure about his assets and liabilities in his nomination papers for the 2023 polls.

Justice M.G.S. Kamal passed the order while partly allowing a petition filed by defeated BJP candidate C. Muniraju.

Meanwhile, the High Court stayed the implementation of the order, on a plea by Mr. Reddy's advocate, to approach the Supreme Court challenging its verdict. The copy of the judgment is yet to be released.

The allegations were related to non-disclosure of up-to-date account balance of the savings accounts of Mr. Reddy, his wife and daughter, etc.

Japan-India Academic Meet from Feb. 18

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

JSS Science and Technology University is hosting the Japan-India academic exchange initiative titled Wondervogel-II Program from February 18 to 25 here. The initiative brings together students, faculty, and researchers from India and Japan for collaborative academic engagement.

The event is being organised in collaboration with Hokkaido University, CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute, and the University of Mysore. A delegation of 35 members, including students and faculty from both countries, will take part.

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Indian Overseas bank (IOB) invites bids for the following:

GOVERNMENT E-MARKET PORTAL - Procurement & Operations of Trend Micro Extended Detection and Response (XDR) tool.

BID NO: GEM/2026/B/7229725 DATED 12.02.2026

The Above GEM Tender document is also available and can be downloaded from the following websites **www.iob.bank.in** & **www.gem.gov.in** For Tender details and future amendments, if any, keep referring to the following website **www.gem.gov.in**

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer (Ele), 16th Floor,
PU Building, MG Road, Bengaluru-01

No.: BCCC/EE/ELE/Qtn/01/2025-26 **Date: 16.02.2026**

INVITATION FOR QUOTATION
(Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer (Electrical), Bengaluru Central City Corporation, invites rates from authorized dealers, manufacturers, and contractors for the following items of work. The rates quoted shall be used only for the purpose of preparation of estimates. Interested parties are requested to submit their rates through the Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP).

Sl. No.	Description of Items
1	Fabricating and supplying of 120 feet Crematorium Furnace Chimney made out of following specifications, ➢ Base plate 1500X1500X30mm, 1no and 900mm dia x16mm 1no Vertical Ribs 1250 X 400 X 12mm thickness Chimney steel plate 1500mm dia X 25mm thick Conical pipe Conical Segment made out of IS2062 MS sheet, 1100mm dia X 600mm dia total 60 feet long. ➢ 1st Segment 20 feet long fabricated out of 12mm thick plate, 2nd Segment 20 feet long fabricated out of 10mm. thick plate, 3rd Segment 20 feet long fabricated out of 08mm thick plate, 4th Segment straight pipe -600mm dia 20 feet long made out of 06mm thick 5th segment 600mm dia straight pipe 20 feet long made out of SS304, 6th Segment 600mm dia straight pipe 20 feet length made out of SS304 to join all the 6 pieces suitable MS flange joint made out of 18mm bolts 16nos for each flange. ➢ Inspection door of size 500mm X 500mm with covering sheet Foundation bolts 16 no's 50mm dia of 2000 mm length and 32 no's nuts Chimney top wood of size 900mm dia X 400mm height fabricated out of SS (304GRADE) with legs 50mm L angle (3mm) thick Ladder fabricated out of 35 X 35 X 6mm L angle 60 feet long with safety guard 20 feet each length MS pipe platform for pollution check point. ➢ Monkey ladder fabricated out of 35 X 35 X 6mm L angle 60 feet length 20 feet each length platform fabricated out of MS 2000mm dia x 1000mm x 3mm chakerd plate with safety grill 50mm dia pipe 6 nos, 50mm dia with MS plate. ➢ Other accessories furnace scrubber outlet to chimney MS pipe of suitable size & length, aviation light, Lightning arrester(copper), earthing strip GI with insulation 25 X 3mm & Red bus-bar insulator for supporting with bolt & nuts 40 X 8mm complete set includes, transportation, loading and unloading charges at factory and site and transport charges of all equipments connected to chimney. **Unit: Set, Quantity: 1**
2	Erection and commissioning of 120 Feet long conical shape bottom 1100mm dia X top 600mm dia Crematorium Furnace Chimney made out of MS & SS including 150 to 200 feet boom crane with lifting capacity of 15 tones, sufficient labour and connecting of furnace scrubber outlet to chimney. **Unit: Job, Quantity: 1**
3	Dismantling of the remaining portion of chimney, existing chimney foundation, disconnecting the scrubber connection pipe & etc complete including required Men, tools, Machineries, heavy duty long boom crane & disposing of foundation debris. **Unit: Job, Quantity: 1**
4	Dismantling of the deteriorated chimney, existing chimney foundation, disconnecting the scrubber connection pipe & etc complete including required Men, tools, Machineries, heavy duty long boom crane & disposing of foundation debris. **Unit: Job, Quantity: 1**

Quotation Schedule: (1) Reference: **EE/ELE/East/Qtn/01/2025-26. (2)** Date from which bid is ready for download through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) of Government of Karnataka (**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in): 17.02.2026. (3)** Last date and time for submission in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP): **25.02.2026** upto **4:00 p.m. (4)** Date & time of opening: **26.02.2026** upto **4:00 p.m. (5)** Earnest Money Deposit: **Rs. 500/- (Rs. Five Hundred only).** Further details can be obtained from the above office during working hours or from the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer(Ele), BCCC

Kerala govt. recalibrates its stance on Sabarimala women entry

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Law Minister P. Rajeeve has said that the State government will "strike an optimal balance" between essential religious practices central to faith and elemental constitutional questions as it recalibrates the State's position on allowing women of menstruating age to enter the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple ahead of the Supreme Court hearing review petitions in April.

The move assumes political significance against the backdrop of the Congress and BJP accusing the Kerala government of "betraying" devotees by failing to withdraw the affidavit submitted in the top court supporting women's entry. Both the parties have sought to resurrect the issue in the crucial Assembly election year.

Mr. Rajeeve told a news conference on Monday that "vested political interests" had obfuscated the key element in the earlier, much-vilified affidavit. He said the issue posed "complex legal conundrums," which the State would address with devotees' interests and temple custom in mind.

The Nair Service Society and the Sree Narayana Dharma Paripalana Yogam, two prominent Hindu organisations in the State, have received the government's move to recalibrate the State's stance with cautious optimism.

Bill Gates lauds A.P.'s adoption of tech

He says that while many developed nations are yet to fully integrate AI into agriculture, A.P. is making strides in it

V. Raghavendra
VIJAYAWADA

Gates Foundation chairperson Bill Gates on Monday praised the adoption of advanced technologies in governance and citizen service delivery in the State. He was visiting the Real-Time Governance System (RTGS) Centre at the Secretariat in Guntur district.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, who accompanied him, explained the Sanjeevani and Data Lake projects and WhatsApp Governance; apprised him of the progress made in the construction of the capital city of Amaravati; and unveiled a future roadmap for the State based on emerging technologies. He gave a demonstration how 921 citizen services were made accessible to the public via WhatsApp.

Gates Foundation chairperson Bill Gates and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu during during a visit to a field at Undavalli village on Monday. ANI

Mr. Gates lauded the streamlining of citizen services through Data Lake and WhatsApp Governance and called the efforts going into the capital city as "great work". He lauded the 'blue and green' concept of reserving 30% of the area for water-bodies and greenery.

The CM said the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth was being estimated periodically through key performance indicators.

Asked how land records were protected, officials told Mr. Gates that the documents were secured using blockchain technology and QR codes, which would ensure transparency.

Mr. Gates expressed satisfaction on the implementation of the Sanjeevani project, which began as a pilot in Kuppam Assembly segment represented by Mr. Chandrababu Naidu. As part of Sanjeevani, digital health records were prepared to improve healthcare services.

The CM said the government was focused on large-scale use of AI in healthcare and it was planning to render bio-design medical services. Mr. Gates emphasised that offering diagnostic services at low costs would immensely benefit the poor, suggesting that the government should prioritise it.

In a meeting at the Secretariat, Mr. Gates remarked that while many developed nations were yet to fully integrate AI into agriculture, A.P. was making strides in it.

He lauded Mr. Chandrababu Naidu's vision for specialised hubs – Visakhapatnam as Data-AI City; Kakinada as Green Hydrogen Valley; Orvakal as Drone City; Tirupati as Electronics and Space City; and Lepakshi as Electronics and Aero City.

During a visit to an agricultural field near Undavalli village, Mr. Gates watched a demonstration of the A.P. Agriculture Information Management System and identification of crop pests through AI.

He also witnessed a drone spraying a fertilizer and inspected organic products grown through natural farming.

'Only Stalin can unite INDIA bloc to make Rahul PM'

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Senior Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar on Monday said Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin stood the best chance of consolidating the anti-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) parties in the INDIA bloc to "help Rahul Gandhi assume the Prime Minister's Office".

Speaking to reporters in Thiruvananthapuram, he said Mr. Stalin had refrained from hurling epithets and coining pseudo-slogans such as "Vote Chori and Chowkidar Chor Hai". Instead, he remained singularly focused on "every single point that is relevant to federalism in India", Mr. Aiyar said.

Mani Shankar Aiyar

He compared the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister to the iconic Congress leader late K. Kamaraj. Mr. Aiyer described Mr. Stalin as a "person of great virtue," adding that he would not stand in the way of Mr. Gandhi becoming Prime Minister.

During the interaction, the former Union Minister termed himself as an outlier in the Congress like Jawaharlal Nehru and Subash Chandra Bose.

"Both leaders rebelled against Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi made Nehru the Prime Minister. The Mahatma would have surely tapped Bose as President if the latter had not lost his life in the tragic air crash. In stark contrast, the current leadership seeks to isolate Gandhian truth tellers like me," he added.

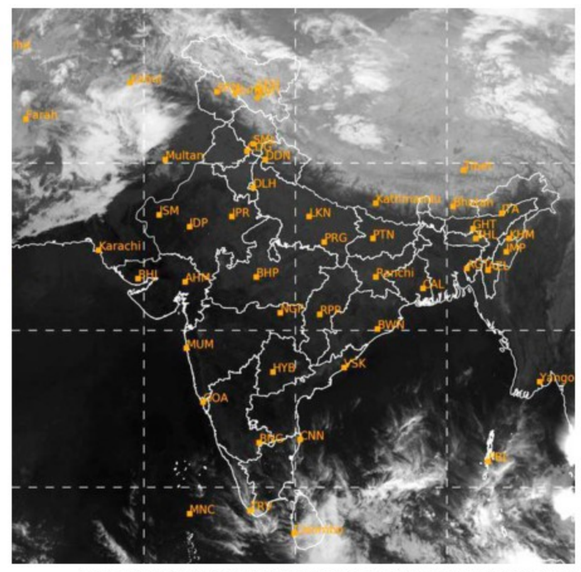
Explains stance

Mr. Aiyar quoted Dr. Ambedkar to explain his estrangement from the Congress. "I am not a part of the whole; I am a part apart," he said and added that Mr. Gandhi had forgotten he was a member of the party. He further said that Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru and Rajiv Gandhi were inspirational leaders. "I am a Gandhian, a Nehruvian, a Rajivian, but not a Rahulian," he said.

As a Gandhian, he was not afraid to speak truth, he claimed. "It was loathsome to associate with a leadership" which had no compunction in elevating someone like K.C. Venugopal (AICC general secretary-Organisation) to a post formerly held by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and appointing Pawan Khera as the party's national spokesperson, he said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning/ gusty winds likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Dense fog likely at isolated places over Odisha. Hot and humid weather likely at isolated places over coastal Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	29.5	13.0	Kozhikode	—	34.7	25.3
Ahmedabad	—	34.0	16.0	Kurnool	—	35.0	20.1
Aizawl	—	27.5	13.6	Lucknow	—	28.9	12.6
Allahabad	—	31.6	12.4	Madurai	—	34.4	21.5
Bengaluru	—	29.8	18.0	Mangaluru	—	34.4	22.1
Bhopal	—	30.0	12.6	Mumbai	—	32.1	20.4
Bhubaneswar	—	32.8	22.0	Mysuru	—	31.0	16.0
Chandigarh	—	27.2	9.0	New Delhi	—	31.6	10.1
Chennai	—	31.5	21.2	Patna	—	27.9	15.4
Coimbatore	—	32.0	21.6	Port Blair	—	31.4	23.3
Dehradun	—	27.6	11.4	Puducherry	—	29.5	21.3
Gangtok	—	17.7	8.4	Pune	—	34.5	19.2
Goa	—	34.7	21.0	Raipur	—	32.9	17.2
Guwahati	—	28.7	15.0	Ranchi	—	28.2	11.0
Hubballi	—	34.0	17.0	Shillong	—	19.3	7.3
Hyderabad	—	31.7	18.4	Shimla	—	19.6	8.4
Imphal	—	28.0	13.9	Srinagar	—	16.6	0.1
Jaipur	—	30.0	15.3	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.2	23.9
Kochi	—	32.6	25.0	Tiruchi	—	32.1	21.6
Kohima	—	21.4	8.3	Vijayawada	—	32.3	20.4
Kolkata	—	28.6	15.7	Visakhapatnam	—	30.9	21.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.88	119	19	... 246	.....—	
Bengaluru	...6	..31	18	... 237	...149	
Chennai	...6	..12	51	... 144	...125	
Delhi	.10	112	92	... 308	...309	
Hyderabad	...5	..10	60	... 140	...143	
Kolkata	...9	..96	38	... 234	...139	
Lucknow	...9	..38	44	... 171	...122	
Mumbai	.25	..88	38	... 136	...119	
Pune	..—	..84	42	... 249	...209	
Visakhapatnam	...9	..57	19	... 162	...152	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Gurugram, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 296 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Panchkula, Haryana recorded a healthy AQI score of 27

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
KOPPAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (R), KOPPAL (ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
ನೊಂದಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:KOL-S243-2012-13 ದಿನಾಂಕ:15–03–2013
Website: www.kimskoppal.com email: directorkimskoppal@gmail.com
Office : 08539 225522 Office : 08539-225523

No:KIMS/Koppal/Tender/2025-26/695 Date:16/02/2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited for Supply of Equipments/Instruments to KIMS Koppal under two cover Bid system as per KTPP Act 1999 rule 2000 KPPP portal of Government of Karnataka. Tender documents may download from the 10.02.2026 from 05.30 PM

1) Floor Cleaning Machine - Tender Cost: Rs. 12.50 Lakhs EMD: Rs. 31250/-
2) Xerox Machine - Tender Cost: Rs. 9.00 Lakhs EMD: Rs. 22500/-
3) BSc Nursing Equipments - Tender Cost: Rs. 8.70 Lakhs EMD: Rs. 21750/-
4) Physiology Equipments - Tender Cost: Rs. 27.75 Lakhs EMD: Rs. 55500/-

Tender Can be Downloaded from **17/02/2026** from 5.30 PM and Last Date for Submission of Tender **04.03.2026** up to 05.30 PM Further information may be obtained from the above office during office hours & also from Website:https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and this office web-site www.kimskoppal.kar.nic.in

Sd/-Director, KIMS Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/681/KSMCA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BHALKI

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಪುಸಭಾ/ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ./ವಿಷೇಶ/ಸಿಆರ್–01/2025–26 Date: 13-02-2026

:: TENDER NOTIFCATION ::

1) Name of work: Indent no: 52566/Call-2, 52670/Call-2, 52671/Call-2, 52692/Call-2 and 52699/Call-2, 2) Estimated cost: As per kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp, 3) Eligibility of Agency / Consultant: As per kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp, 4) EMD amount: As per kppp.karnataka.gov.in/kppp, 5) Last date for submission of tender: 23-02-2026 ಸಾ: 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, 6) Technical bid opening: 24-02-2026 ಸಾ: 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, 7) Financial bid opening: 25-02-2026 ಸಾ: 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, 8) Address for communication: Chief Officer Town Municipal Council Bhalki Pin code 585328, Phone No: 8892941328, Email : ka.bhalki.tmc@gmail.com 9) Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home

Sd/- CHIEF OFFICER TMC BHALKI
DIPR/Bidar/334/KSMC&A/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

No.6721/PW/EE/BRC/DB/DR-I/25-26 Puducherry Date: 16/02/2026

PRESS NOTICE FOR e-Tender

The Executive Engineer, Buildings & Roads (Central) Division, Public Works Department, Puducherry (Official email Id: eebrcpwd@py.gov.in) invites on behalf of the President of India, online percentage rate bids from the approved and eligible contractors/firms for the following work: **1. N/W :** "Improvements to the existing cement concrete road in Muthiyalpet Revenue Village, Puducherry." **Tender No**.133/PW/BRC/25-26, **Estimate Cost** ₹ 5,11,15,456/- (inclusive of GST), **Earnest Money** ₹ 10,22,309/-, Last date and time of submission of bid on (or) before **11.00 AM on 23.02.2026**. Date & Time of Opening of bid **11.30 AM on 23.02.2026**. The bid forms and other details can be obtained from the website **www.pudutenders.gov.in**.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
No.825/DIP/AD(Press)/2025-2026

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Executive Engineer, K.R.Sagara Division, K.R. Sagara

TENDER NOTIFICATION NO - 14/2025-26 Dated : 16-02-2026

The Executive Engineer, K.R. Sagara Division, K.R.Sagara, Srirangapatna Taluk, Mandya Dist.on behalf of the Managing Director CNNL Mysore has invited tender through e-procurement **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for 07 No. of works Amounting from Rs.399.16 Lakhs to Rs. 40.28 Lakhs and on EMD As per KPPP Portal. Any further information Or Clarification for the above said work including last date, opening date, Pre-bid meeting date, EMD, etc., can be obtained from above mentioned office during the office hours & from the above said website.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, K.R. Sagara Division, K.R. Sagara.

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH RAICHUR
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER RURAL DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DIVISION RAICHUR

NO./EE/RDWS&S/RCR/TS/KKRDB/2025-26/e-Tender/ 1635 DATED:13-02-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Executive Engineer RDW & S Division Raichur invites tenders from eligible tenderers Registered under e-procurement civil contractors in Panchayath Engineering Department, for Providing water supply scheme to below works, as per KW-1 & 4, Standard Bid Document Under KKRDB 2025-56.The tenderers may submit tenders for the works given in the table in GOK e- Procurement platform https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only as per Rule 28 of the KTPP Act shall be followed.

1) Notification Date: 13-02-2026 **2) Download of tender schedule documents online:** 16-02-2026 **3) Last date for receiving of filled tender documents:** 24-02-2026 at 4:30 PM **4) Opening of Technical bid:** 26-02-2026 at 5:30 PM **5) Opening of Financial bid :** 27-02-2026 at 5:30 PM

Indent Nos.:- Sindhanur: 9860 **Deodurga:** 9881, 9864 **Lingasugur:** 9850

More details can be had from the Office of the under signed and also through our website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ by clicking the List of Tenders which will be link all Dept. works list.

DIP/RCR/709/KSMCA/712/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDW&S. Divn, Raichur.

NAGPUR METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Station Road, Kingsway, Sadar, Nagpur-440001.
e-TENDER NOTICE No. 37/2025-26
www.mahatenders.gov.in

Sealed Percentage rate/ Item rate e-tenders are invited from Non-Registered /Registered Contractors with N.M.R.D.A./ N.I.T. /P.W.D. / N.M.C. or other Govt. Dept. as per eligibility criteria for **One** work. The details of works will be uploaded on tender website i.e. www.mahatenders.gov.in

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Amount of Work / E.M.D. in Rs.	Eligibility/Tender Cost in Rs.	Time Limit in Months	Division
1	**Appointment of Consultant for "Providing Comprehensive Architectural & Engineering Consultancy Services including Masterplan, Internal Infrastructure, External Development & Landscape, Detailed Project Report on the Sustainable Model etc. for Development of Naveen Nagpur on 1710 Acres Land."**	As per Tender Document 10,00,000/-	As per Tender Document 29,500/-	36	Town Planning

Money :- E.M.D. is to be paid by online only. **Plans & Estimates :-** Available in the Technical Section, Head Office, Sadar, Nagpur. **Tender Forms :-** From **02.00 P.M.** on Date **18.02.2026** up to **2.00 P.M.** on Date **11.03.2026** on www.mahatenders.gov.in **Receipt / Submission :-** From **02.00 P.M.** on Date **18.02.2026** up to **2.00 P.M.** on Date **11.03.2026** on www.mahatenders.gov.in. **Pre-Bid Meeting:-** On 4.00 P.M. on Date **26.02.2026** in the Office of S.E. (Project), NMRDA, Station Road, NMRDA, Head Office, Sadar, Nagpur. **Opening :-** At N.M.R.D.A. Office on Date **12.03.2026** at 2.00 P.M. or as decided by N.M.R.D.A.

Advt. No. : S.E.(NMRDA)/85/2025-26 Dated : 16.02.2026

-sd- Superintending Engineer, Nagpur Metropolitan Region Development Authority

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division,Hassan

IFT No.36/2025-26, Dated: 12.02.2026

Short term tenders are invited from eligible Agencies in two cover system through KPPP portal of GOK (website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) for Hassan & Chikkamagaluru District works as per KW-1,3 &4 maximum tender amount is Rs.240.14 lakhs & minimum tender amount is Rs.3.24 lakhs. The last date of receipt of tender is 21-02-2026 upto 5.00 PM hours. Further detail can be had from KPP-portal and the above office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI & GWD Division, Hassan.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/1068/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಐಎ/2025–26

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER - Call-3
(only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (UWP), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
(WWM-P) H&AV	BWSSB/EE(WWM-P) H&AV/AEE(WWM-P-H & AV-2)/AE/1854/ 2025-26 Date: 11.02.2026	Rs.57,25,688/- / Rs.1,14,600/-	24.02.2026 upto 5:00 PM	25.02.2026 at 5.15 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (WWM-P)H&AV

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the abovesigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/5674/SSC/2025-26

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562114.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ:–27931221, ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ: 27931759
Email:-itstaff_ulb_hosakote@yahoo.com Website: www.hosakotecity.mrc.gov.in

ನಂ.ನಸಹೊ/ಆಶಾ/ಘವನಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್/12/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 16.02.2026

"ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ" (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಸ್ವಚ್ಛ ಭಾರತ್ ಮಿಷನ್ 2.0 ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದ್ವಿ–ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ / ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯಿಂದ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ
01	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_ INDENT52011/CALL-2	125.14	1,87,710/-

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home** ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು. 2) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಶಾಖೆಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪರಿಸರ) ರವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/ಶಿರಡಿಸಾಯಿ/5675/2025–26

BENGALURU SOUTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Uttarahalli & Anjanapura Division, Amruth Nagar-Konankunte Main Road, Soudamini Layout, Bengaluru-62

No. EE/UAD/TEND/06/2025-26 Date : 16-02-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through KPP Portal only) (Two Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, Uttarahalli & Anjanapura Division, Bengaluru South City Corporation, Bengaluru-560062 invites tenders on behalf of the Commissioner from eligible contractors registered with KPWD/CPWD/BWSSB/ Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl.	Name of the Work
1	Repairs and maintenance of Anjanapura Dhobhi Ghat in Bengaluru South Constituency. **Approximate Amount Put to Tender :** Rs. 22.80 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 45,600/- **Category / Reserved for :** Others.
2	Repairs and maintenance of Crematorium and burial grounds in Bengaluru South Constituency. **Approximate Amount Put to Tender :** Rs. 31.34 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 62,680/- **Category / Reserved for :** Others.
3	Providing Rain water harvesting in parks and buildings in Bengaluru South Constituency. **Approximate Amount Put to Tender :** Rs. 8.89 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 22,225/- **Category / Reserved for :** Others.
4	Repairs and Maintenance of Primary Health Center in Bengaluru South Constituency. **Approximate Amount Put to Tender :** Rs. 8.45 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs. 21,125/- **Category / Reserved for :** Others.

(1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (2)** Uploading of Tender Documents From **19.02.2026. (3)** Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **02.03.2026 upto 04.00 PM (4)** Date of Technical bid opening of Tenders is on **04.03.2026 after 04.30 PM.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Uttarahalli & Anjanapura Division, Bengaluru South City Corporation

Cities of debt

ULBs need more administrative capacity before they can tap the market

The government's updated 'Urban Challenge Fund' has rendered the attention of urban local bodies (ULB) an even more precious resource as they struggle to complete unfinished work under other schemes, including AMRUT, Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0, 'Smart Cities', and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, which also suffer from chronic underutilisation. The government has pitched the fund as a move towards "market-linked, reform-driven and outcome-oriented" urban infrastructure, with the Centre covering 25% of project cost if cities raise at least 50% through bonds, loans, and PPPs. This is an attempt to incorporate fiscal discipline in a system that has never properly devolved fiscal powers to ULBs. Many Indian cities cannot credibly borrow without first fixing the political economy of local taxes and transfers, which are shaped by State-level issues and under-investment in municipal capacity. Requiring cities to "earn" their growth risks sidelining weaker ones and shifting the focus from services such as formalising settlements to developing monetisable assets. The ₹5,000 crore guarantee may ease borrowing for smaller cities, but proper accounting and administrative capacity are essential. When a Parliamentary Standing Committee asked about the Fund's eligibility criteria and application process, the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry said that it was still "under examination", a possible recipe for politically coloured spending.

Across sectors, the Centre has, since 2014, increasingly reduced the share of public support while asking public systems to fill the gap using private finance. The CSIR was among the first casualties and urban development could be the latest. In higher education, the move towards infrastructure loans turned public universities into debt-laden entities that were expected to recover costs by increasing fees, affecting poor students. Studies of the National Health Mission's financial management have documented long delays to move funds through treasuries to implementing agencies, so in practice, hospitals have been asked to maintain services first and receive money later. Audits under the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana have exposed significant non-adherence and implementation gaps in the power sector. Private capital is not illegitimate and public systems should sometimes raise revenues; the issue is that the Centre increasingly conditions public support on market access instead of ensuring minimum service guarantees first. Thus, while the Fund's instruments are legitimate, it will increase the risk of becoming insubordinate to "bankability" if land records are a mishmash, ULBs routinely violate 'master plans', and renters and low-income households do not receive additional protections.

Transatlantic strains

Europe should engage with the wider world to reduce dependence on the U.S.

The international rules-based order "no longer exists", Germany's Chancellor Friedrich Merz said at the annual Munich Security Conference. French President Emmanuel Macron called for greater European "military autonomy", arguing that the continent must become a stronger pillar within NATO. While these remarks reflected Europe's growing anxiety over the U.S.'s receding security commitments, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio promised a path of cooperation. He advocated a stronger alliance rooted in shared history and Christian cultural linkages rather than shared strategic interests. The speeches by European and American officials underscored both the strains in transatlantic ties and Europe's mounting challenges. Last year, at the same venue, U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance had slammed Europe's democratic model and its refugee policies. Mr. Rubio, though conciliatory, also echoed the American far-right's central talking point of "civilizational erasure". The Trump administration wants Europe, at a moment of crisis, to join its culture wars and its push to reassert western dominance.

Today's Europe faces a trifecta of challenges. First, the largest land conflict since the end of the Second World War has been raging on its eastern flank for four years. Europe's principal response has been to arm Ukraine and hurt Russia through sanctions, but this has not produced decisive results on the battlefield. Second, Europe has relied on the U.S. for its security since the Second World War, a dependence that deepened after the Cold War. This lopsided partnership is no longer sustainable as the U.S., where a new far-right movement seeks to recast transatlantic ties, appears increasingly less committed to European security. Mr. Trump's remarks about taking control of Greenland risk undermining the alliance's collective defence principle. Third, resurgent far-right movements across Europe are challenging the idea of an inclusive European Union. As the global order shifts – as Mr. Rubio said ahead of Munich – Europe risks being squeezed by these cross-currents. Instead, Europe has to reduce its reliance on the U.S. and build greater strategic autonomy. And if it is worried about the breakdown in the international order, it should help rebuild that by working with countries beyond the West. In the near term, Europe must also work towards ending the war in Ukraine and establishing a workable new normal with Russia. Finally, European leaders must address public resentment towards the political establishment, which continues to fuel the rise of the far-right. Continental peace and stability and cooperation and engagement with the wider world should guide Europe while it reimagines its role in the emerging world order.

India's federalism is in need of a structural reset

M.K. Stalin

is the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

The Constitution of India, while federal in structure, was designed with a pronounced centralising bias. Drawing heavily from the Government of India Act, 1935, it concentrated significant authority in New Delhi while assigning a comparatively modest sphere to the States. This architecture was shaped by the circumstances of its birth – the trauma of Partition, the integration of 14 provinces and over 500 princely States, and the pervasive fear that centrifugal forces might threaten national unity. In that climate, centralisation appeared not merely prudent but also indispensable.

Yet, even in those anxious deliberations, there were voices of rare clarity. K. Santhanam cautioned the Constituent Assembly that the Union's strength lies not in the indiscriminate accumulation of functions, but in the disciplined refusal of responsibilities that do not properly belong at the national level. "It is in this positive as well as negative delimitation of powers that a real federal system rests...," he observed.

In that single formulation lay two enduring principles: first, authority is most effective when exercised closest to knowledge and accountability; and second, excessive centralisation breeds fragility by overburdening a single authority with tasks that it cannot efficiently discharge. A government that attempts to supervise everything – from space exploration to rural sanitation – may expand in reach but this inevitably diminishes its effectiveness.

Reinforcement of dominance

History demonstrates that power assumed in the name of necessity rarely retreats when necessity fades. In the decades that followed, centralising tendencies were reinforced by the dominance of a single national party at the Union and State levels, fostering a "high command" culture that attenuated the autonomy of State leadership. Later, the emergence of coalition governments at the Union and the rise of regional parties in States led to a more balanced federal order without endangering unity. One may reasonably surmise that had today's politically mature and linguistically consolidated States existed in 1950, the constitutional design might have evolved along a more decentralised path.

Just as an individual cannot remain perpetually captive to the neuroses of childhood, so too a nation cannot forever labour under the anxieties of its formative years. India's unity is no longer fragile, and the idea of India now rests on firm and enduring foundations. Yet, 76 years later, constitutional practice continues to reflect the reflexes of the late 1940s. Centralisation, once defended as a necessity, has hardened into habit.

Through successive constitutional amendments, expansive Union legislation in Concurrent List subjects, conditional Finance Commission transfers, and centrally sponsored schemes with rigid templates, the balance of power has tilted even further toward the Union. Large ministries exist in New Delhi that duplicate State functions and often attempt to steer State priorities through micromanagement and procedural oversight. In an inversion of democratic hierarchy, the Union Executive is attempting to override plenary State laws in Concurrent List subjects through subordinate legislation.

> There is a need for balanced federalism in the form of autonomous States, an efficient Union, and accountable governance

It is a principle

Such a drift sits uneasily with constitutional doctrine. In *S.R. Bommai vs Union of India* (1994), the Supreme Court of India declared federalism part of the Constitution's Basic Structure and affirmed that States are not mere appendages of the Centre but are supreme within their allotted spheres. Federalism, the Court held, is a principle rooted in India's history and diversity; not a matter of administrative convenience. Despite this judicial affirmation, State autonomy has continued to erode – through legislative expansion, executive overreach, and certain other judicial interpretations that privilege uniform national solutions over contextual diversity.

Underlying this trajectory is a persistent illusion – that the Union becomes stronger by diminishing the States. In truth, the Union and the States are not competitors in a zero-sum contest; they are partners in a shared constitutional enterprise. India's size and heterogeneity render centralised policy design inherently limited. No authority in New Delhi, however enlightened, can tailor policy with equal sensitivity to every linguistic region, agricultural ecology, industrial cluster, or labour market.

Decentralisation addresses this limitation by enabling parallel experimentation. States can design and test policies at manageable scale, contain failures without national disruption, and allow successful innovations to diffuse horizontally or be adopted nationally. Many of India's most effective programmes followed precisely this path. Tamil Nadu's noon meal scheme, Kerala's achievements in public health and literacy, and Maharashtra's employment guarantee initiative all began as State experiments before informing national policy. Over-centralisation suppresses the very diversity of strategies from which innovation and discovery arise.

Centralists often argue that States lack administrative or technical capacity and, therefore, require Union intervention. Yet, such intervention stunts the very capacity it claims to remedy, creating a self-perpetuating cycle of dependence. Parents who do not entrust their children with responsibility, and leaders who refuse to delegate authority, inevitably breed dependence. Governments are no exception.

Capacity arises from responsibility, accountability, and the freedom to make, and correct, mistakes. To suggest that India's States – many comparable in scale to sovereign nations – are inherently incapable and must, therefore, be subjected to intrusive central control is incompatible with national self-respect.

Centralisation might still be defended if it had delivered superior outcomes. But by comparison with decentralised federations, global benchmarks, or India's own aspirations, the record is unpersuasive. The centralised model has struggled to deliver universal access, sustained quality, genuine equity, or global competitiveness. Instead, it has produced regulatory complexity, chronic underfunding as resources are stretched across expanding mandates, blurred accountability, and gradual erosion of State capacity.

Tamil Nadu recognised these dangers at an early stage. In 1967, C.N. Annadurai observed that the Union must indeed be strong enough to maintain the sovereignty and integrity of India. But that did not mean that it should assume control over every subject, such as health or education, which bore no direct nexus to national defence.

His successor, Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi, advanced this philosophy through the maxim, "Autonomy to the States, Federalism at the Centre", and in 1969 established the first independent Committee on Union-State Relations under Justice P.V. Rajamannar. The Committee's 1971 Report became a landmark in India's federal debate. Later national commissions – the Sarkaria (1983-88) and Punchhi (2007-10) – acknowledged the need for rebalancing, though they stopped short of recommending fundamental structural reform.

Time to right-size

India now stands at a constitutional juncture that calls for recalibration rather than complacency. The objective is not to weaken the Union but to right-size it, allowing it to concentrate on genuinely national responsibilities while restoring to States the autonomy essential for effective governance. Such recalibration would not diminish national unity; it would deepen it by aligning authority with responsibility.

In this spirit, the Government of Tamil Nadu constituted a High-Level Committee on Union-State Relations in April 2025 under the chairmanship of Justice Kurian Joseph (a retired Supreme Court judge), with K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty (a retired IAS officer) and Dr. M. Naganathan (former State Planning Commission vice-chairman) as members. Thought of as a non-partisan exercise, the Committee undertook a comprehensive review of contemporary federal challenges.

Part I of its Report, which was submitted on February 16, 2026, addresses issues that range from the role of Governors and language policy to delimitation, elections, education, health, and Goods and Services Tax.

The Government of Tamil Nadu presents this report to the public in the hope that it will stimulate informed debate, restore balance to the Union-State relationship, and contribute to a constitutional settlement in which the Union is strong because it is focused, and the States are strong because they are trusted.

A budgetary signal as banks cannot bear it all

Saumitra Bhaduri

is Professor, Madras School of Economics

Budget 2026 has initiated, albeit limited, some important shifts in India's approach to financial-sector reform. There are proposals to introduce a market-making framework for corporate bonds, develop total-return swaps and bond-index derivatives, establish an Infrastructure Risk Guarantee Fund, and recycle Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) real estate assets through dedicated Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT). But all these reflect an implicit recognition of a deeper structural problem: Indian banks are shouldering risks that functioning markets absorb elsewhere

Overburdened balance sheets

When Indian banks struggle, weak governance, political interference, and poor risk management are the usual explanations. Each contains some truth. Taken together, however, they miss the larger issue. Over time, India has asked its banks to bear risks that, in more mature systems, are priced, traded, and distributed through markets. This has quietly overburdened bank balance sheets and made the financial system more fragile than it needs to be.

The problem begins with a structural imbalance. India has built a reasonably deep government bond market, supported by the Reserve Bank of India and a predictable issuance framework. Government securities outstanding are close to 90% of GDP, comparable to many large economies. The same cannot be said of corporate bonds. At around 15%-16% of GDP, India's corporate bond market is less than half the size of China's and barely a quarter of that in the United States or Germany.

This gap matters because economies do not stop needing long-term finance simply because markets are missing. When bond markets are shallow, someone else must step in. In India, that "someone" has been banks.

Today, banks carry roughly 60%-65% of all non-financial corporate debt, compared with about 30% in the U.S. and 40% in Europe. The difference is not managerial skill or prudence; it is architecture. Where markets can price and redistribute credit risk, banks lend selectively. Where they cannot, banks become the default warehouse for risk.

> There is an attempt in Budget 2026 to rebalance India's financial system by moving risks away from banks and into markets

Vulnerability and recapitalisation

This is not what banks are designed for. Banks fund themselves largely through short-term deposits and are sensitive to confidence. Yet, they are expected to finance projects such as highways, power plants, ports, and telecom networks that take 15 years or 20 years to generate cash flows. This mismatch in duration forces banks into extreme maturity transformation, increasing vulnerability to shocks.

The consequences have been visible and costly. When projects stalled or cash flows disappointed, losses were not absorbed gradually by markets. They landed abruptly on bank balance sheets. The fiscal cost followed. Since 2017, the government has injected more than ₹3.2 lakh crore into public sector banks. These recapitalisations stabilised the system, but they also quietly transferred private credit losses onto the public balance sheet. This is the hidden tax of a bank-centric financial system.

There is also a less visible opportunity cost. Capital tied up in long-term corporate loans is capital that is not available to small firms, exporters or first-time borrowers. This helps explain a familiar paradox that even after repeated clean-ups and capital injections, bank credit to small and medium enterprises remains constrained.

India's corporate bond market remains shallow by international standards. Bonds outstanding amount to less than 15% of GDP, compared with over 80% in the U.S., around 55%-60% in Germany, and 45%-50% in China. Issuance is overwhelmingly through private placements, ownership is concentrated among a narrow set of institutional investors, and secondary market liquidity is weak. Households and foreign investors play only a marginal role, and issuance is heavily skewed toward top-rated firms. With such limited depth and participation, the bond market cannot meaningfully absorb or price credit risk.

The concentration of risk in the balance sheets of banks also weakens monetary policy transmission. When interest rates rise, banks already burdened with long-term credit exposures are reluctant to pass on higher costs fully; when rates fall, impaired balance sheets constrain fresh lending. The uneven adjustment of long-term borrowing costs despite changes in policy rates reflects this distortion. In contrast, deep bond markets transmit policy signals more smoothly as yields reprice across maturities and portfolios rebalance.

No corporate debt market

The core issue stems from the absence of a corporate debt market that can effectively distribute long-term credit risk. Without a deep bond market to distribute exposure across institutional and long-term investors, credit risk remains concentrated on bank balance sheets.

Thus, the measures announced in Budget 2026 are an attempt to correct a long-standing structural imbalance. By improving corporate bond market liquidity, introducing hedging instruments such as total-return swaps, providing partial credit guarantees through the Infrastructure Risk Guarantee Fund, and expanding the stock of market-ready assets through REITs, the Budget gestures towards reallocating risks away from banks and into markets. Whether this shift gathers momentum will determine whether India's financial system becomes more resilient or continues to rely on banks as the economy's shock absorber of last resort.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Viability challenge

The SHANTI Act has revived debates on nuclear liability, but the real question is whether opening nuclear energy to private players is financially viable (Text & Context, February 13, 2026). With huge capital costs, long timelines, and uncertainties — including technology, human resources, and geopolitical risks — economic returns are unlikely to attract industrial giants. While liability concerns dominate discussion, analysis should also consider whether prestige in high-end technology is enough incentive to mobilise the enormous investment needed. Criticism due to understandable concerns on nuclear liability should be supplemented by economic viability analysis and associated information to present the full picture.

N. Ramamoorthy,
Mysuru

In Colombo

With a combination of explosive batting and incisive bowling, India proved too strong for Pakistan on a high-stakes stage, making a statement of intent for the remainder of the tournament. But is this cricket rivalry overhyped, propped up by slogans such as "war minus the shooting" — a phrase George Orwell coined in 1945 to criticise excessive nationalism in sports?

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Transitioning to green steel

Nagendra Nath Sinha
Former Secretary, Ministry of Steel

Alfahad Sorathia
Policy analyst

India's path to net-zero emissions by 2070 will depend heavily on how quickly it scales production and consumption of green steel, as steel remains one of India's largest industrial sources of emissions. The materials we use to build our future must strengthen our progress, not undermine it.

With this in mind, the Ministry of Steel constituted 14 task forces bringing together industry leaders and technical experts to systematically map the sector's decarbonisation levers. Their work covered the full spectrum of transition pathways, which helped create a roadmap for accelerating low-carbon steel production.

But many members saw a barrier: the "green premium." Producing green steel carries high upfront costs for manufacturers. Bridging this gap requires targeted fiscal support for producers in the early years. GST rationalisation and time-bound fiscal incentives can help producers manage the transition. Does this mean that using public procurement to boost demand for premium green steel is an unworkable strategy?

A manageable increment

It is important to distinguish between the producer's additional cost and the actual burden on public procurement. Our analysis showed that even when green steel carries a premium, the effect on large infrastructure projects is minimal. Steel typically accounts for about 18% of large infrastructure projects, which form the bulk of public sector capex in India. As a result, even a 30% premium on green steel, and exclusive use of green steel by public sector infrastructure, translates into an increase of roughly 5.5 % in overall project costs. As not all public infrastructure projects will switch to green steel in the medium term, assuming a 20% rise only results in a 1.1% rise in the budgets of public works such as highways.

This is a manageable increment, especially when seen as insurance for national economic security. India faces dual pressures from the EU Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and volatile prices of coking coal imports, which exceed 50 million tonnes annually and expose us to price shocks that affect trade balance and industrial stability. Transitioning to green steel helps bypass carbon tariffs while insulating national projects from fossil fuel price volatility.

Global experience offers a clear template for aligning policy with market reality. Japan's Green Purchasing framework shows that green procurement must work alongside fiscal incentives, pairing demand mandates with production support so industry can respond at scale. California's Buy Clean model highlights how strict carbon benchmarks and verified disclosures create traceability and reduce administrative risk. Building on these lessons, India has introduced a dedicated Green Steel Taxonomy with a 3-, 4-, and 5-star rating system that ranks steel by emission intensity, providing the carbon "nutrition label" the market lacked.

Building on the taxonomy and stakeholder consultations, the Ministry undertook initial steps to institutionalise green steel public procurement mandates. However, the proposal awaits final approval from key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Finance, largely due to concerns around the green premium and verifiability.

The way forward

At the heart of this delay is a trust deficit. Today, a procurement officer has no reliable way to distinguish a certified green TMT bar from a conventional one. Addressing this challenge is possible. By leveraging the existing Made in India QR code infrastructure alongside the Quality Council of India's accreditation system, Green Star ratings could be embedded into product verification. This would allow procurement officers to instantly confirm the carbon credentials of a product.

Other administrative hurdles can be addressed through targeted reform. For example, procurement frameworks should shift the focus from the lowest upfront price to a broader definition of value for money that recognises sustainability and national economic interest. In parallel, the Schedule of Rates, which guides public works estimates, must explicitly include certified low-carbon steel. Today, green steel may be treated as a deviation because carbon intensity is not recognised as a standard quality parameter. Codifying it would enable officers to procure sustainable materials without administrative risk. Building the capacities of the procurement official, handholding them and evangelising the need for GPP with the States are critical.

Second, our Production Linked Incentives and green hydrogen missions must be aligned with procurement tenders. If the state is subsidising the production of green steel, it must also act as the anchor customer for that output. This alignment ensures that private incentives are harmonised with the public for good.

While a 3-star benchmark provides a practical starting point for adoption, procurement policy should also clearly signal a shift towards 4- and 5-star steel over time. A roadmap that progressively tightens standards after 2030 would encourage industry to invest in higher-grade low-carbon production.

India possesses a window of opportunity: the technology exists, the green premium is manageable, and the market is ready. A practical strategy is to launch focused pilots through centralised purchasers such as the Indian Railways. The procurement scale can create a living lab for green steel. Now, the Ministries of Steel, Finance, and Environment must coordinate to link climate ambition with financial and procurement power.

Inclusive politics in an age of division

Voting is not only about endorsing ideas; it is also about ensuring representation

STATE OF PLAY

Peerzada Ashiq
peerzada.ashiq@thehindu.co.in

Of late, polarising narratives have dominated headlines from Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). Last month, the National Medical Commission withdrew the MBBS course from the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence in Jammu after protests erupted over the fact that a majority of the students who qualified through NEET were Muslim rather than Hindu. Last week, BJP MLA Vikram Randhawa described residents from the Kashmir Valley as "land grabbers" who had illegally occupied land in Jammu. Students have hit the streets demanding that the National Law University be established in Jammu rather than Kashmir.

Amid this din, however, the stories of Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi and Shammi Oberio – both National Conference (NC) parliamentarians – provide a glimpse into a less-discussed story – that of J&K's inclusive politics.

For the first time since the 1990s, none of the Abdullahs, who have long administered J&K, managed to make it to either House of Parliament in the 2024 general elections. There were also other notable changes during the elections. Shammi Oberoi, an eloquent Sikh from Srinagar, became the first from the community from the Kashmir Valley to enter the Rajya Sabha, in 2025. His two speeches in Parliament have won him accolades even from Opposition leaders in Kashmir, a rare gesture in present-day politics.

In the 2024 elections, Syed Aga Ruhullah Mehdi, a Shia cleric from an influential family, also became the first from the community to win parliamentary elections by a huge margin of 1.88 lakh votes. Earlier too, Shia leaders from Kashmir have represented the community, but only in the Rajya Sabha. Notably, it was a majority of Sunni Muslim votes that catapulted Mr. Mehdi to the position, enabling him to represent the Kashmir Valley against the backdrop of the dilution of Article 370 and the downgrading of J&K into a Union Territory in 2019.

Mian Altaf Ahmed Larvi became the first Gujjar leader from J&K in the Lok Sabha. The only region left unrepresented was the Chenab Valley. But with Sajjad Ahmad Kichloo from Kishtwar winning the Rajya Sabha elections, that gap was filled too.

Representation was the defining feature of the 2024 Assembly elections as well. The numerically upscaled 90-member J&K Assembly went to the polls after a decade. It was a moment for all the political parties to seize. The JKNC won 42 seats – 35 from the Kashmir Valley and seven from the Pir Panjal and Chenab Valleys, including two Hindu representatives. None came from the Jammu plains.

During the process of government formation, the NC's strength rose to 54 with the support of Independents and the Congress (6 seats each). However, it was not numbers alone that defined governance. In a careful balancing act, the region's smallest-ever Cabinet of six members comprise Chief Minister Omar Abdullah from Central Kashmir; Sakeena Itto from South Kashmir; Javid Ahmad Dar from North Kashmir; Javed Rana, a Pahari from Poonch in the Pir Panjal Valley; Satish Sharma from Jammu's Chhamb; and Surinder Kumar Choudhary from the Pir Panjal Valley.

There were many firsts. Mr. Choudhary became the first Hindu Deputy Chief Minister from the Pir Panjal Valley and also the first without a coalition government in place. In the past, J&K had Hindu Deputy Chief Ministers only when political parties allied with either the Congress or the BJP. If not for numerical necessity, it was the compulsion of inclusive politics that led the government to allocate two Cabinet berths to the Pir Panjal Valley. Jammu would have been excluded from this model had Mr. Sharma not been inducted. He became the first Independent MLA to serve as Cabinet Minister.

The Peace of Westphalia in 1648 helped define the architecture of the modern nation-state and the idea of sovereign geography. Yet beyond sovereignty, the treaties also underscored the principles of balance of power and collective security – ideas that continue to shape democratic systems.

In modern democracies, voting is not merely about endorsing or opposing a political idea; it is also about ensuring that diverse communities and regions find representation within that sovereign framework. At a time when exclusionary politics is gaining ground everywhere, J&K's political landscape serves as a reminder that inclusion is central to the legitimacy of governance.

Can India overtake Bangladesh in EU textile exports?

As Bangladesh prepares to lose its Least Developed Country trade advantage, India's new EU deal could help level the tariff playing field in the sector

DATA POINT

Anwesha Basu
Arnab Chakrabarti

India's textile sector has been steadily losing ground in global export markets. In contrast, Bangladesh has woven together a remarkable export success. Given the recently signed India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA), and with Bangladesh poised to lose its Least Developed Country (LDC) status, this is an opportune moment for India's textile industry.

Within the textile value chain, India's exports to the EU remain concentrated in intermediate products – particularly yarns and fabrics – rather than in finished garments such as T-shirts, shirts, and trousers. Bangladesh's exports far exceed India's in two readymade garment categories in particular – knitted or crocheted garments (such as T-shirts, jerseys, pullovers, sweaters, and cardigans) and woven garments (such as suits, jackets, trousers, dresses, and shirts). For knitted/crocheted garments, India's share of the EU's total imports declined from nearly 6.5% in 2009 to about 4.4% in 2023 **(Chart 1A)**. Bangladesh's share rose from just 6% in 2000 to 13% in 2009 and 26% by 2023.

A similar pattern is seen in the woven garments trade too **(Chart 1B)**. For woven garments, India's nominal export value to the EU fell in absolute numbers from a peak of about $3.5 billion to $2.9 billion.

To understand why Indian garments have not been able to compete with Bangladesh in the EU market, we compared the average per-unit price of Bangladesh's major export commodities. From **Table 2,** it is clear that India's unit values are consistently higher across all products. This may indicate the following: First, India may be exporting more value-added, better-quality garments, which allows it to charge higher prices. However, its low market share reveals that the EU's demand for such products is limited relative to mass-market apparel, suggesting that 'premium positioning' (if at all) alone cannot drive volume. Second, and more likely, is that higher prices may reflect structural disadvantages: higher production costs, less integrated supply chains and logistical inefficiencies.

Furthermore, the tariffs faced by Indian and Bangladeshi products are radically different **(Chart 3).** Bangladesh, as a LDC, has enjoyed duty-free, quota-free access to the EU under the Everything But Arms (EBA) scheme. Crucially, this zero-tariff access applies even when garments do not meet the EU's standard 'double transformation' requirement. This means Bangladesh can import fabric from anywhere in the world, stitch garments domestically, and export them to the EU at zero duty. India, lacking such preferential treatment, has faced EU Most Favoured Nation (MFN) tariffs of around 12%.

Internal factors also matter. Over the past three decades, Bangladesh has unilaterally and consistently promoted the garment sector. India's approach, by contrast, has been fragmented. Yet, the balance may be poised to shift. Two major structural breaks are on the horizon.

First, Bangladesh is set to lose its EBA benefits in 2029. This would mean the end of automatic duty-free access to the EU, with apparel exports potentially facing MFN tariffs of around 12%. Bangladesh is then expected to seek entry into the EU's Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+), which offers zero tariffs on roughly two-thirds of tariff lines, including textiles. However, GSP+ comes with stricter rules of origin (RoO) and safeguard provisions. As Bangladesh is heavily reliant on other countries (including India) for fabrics, this could mean that Bangladesh's garments may not satisfy GSP+ RoO for duty free entry. Bangladesh, will of course, try its best to negotiate its way out of this clause. Historically, EU has maintained its stance on the double transformation criteria. In case it continues to do so, Bangladesh will be at a serious disadvantage. If competition is price-driven, then Bangladesh may lose its market share. If, on the other hand, Bangladesh's primary advantage comes from supply-chain integration, then it could still retain dominance in the face of higher tariffs.

The recently finalised agreement grants India duty-free access to the EU's textile markets, subject to the double-stage processing requirement. Since India's textile industry is already relatively vertically integrated – most of the yarn and fabric used in apparel production is manufactured domestically – the double-stage requirement is not likely to be an impediment for Indian textile exports. As a result, Indian exporters are well-positioned to meet stricter rules of origin without major restructuring.

Taken together, these changes create a rare window of opportunity: narrowing of Bangladesh's preferential advantage and reduction of India's tariff disadvantage. Textiles remain one of the largest employers in Indian manufacturing, spanning both formal and informal enterprises, yet the sector has failed to create employment opportunities in recent years. Reviving textile exports, particularly to high-income markets like the EU, could act as a much-needed tonic for India's employment crisis. The question is whether India is finally ready to tailor a strategy that fits, capturing market share with cost-competitive production, vertical integration, and a coherent industrial policy. The recent experience of Vietnam's apparel exports, which saw a surge post the signing of the EU-Vietnam FTA in 2020, is indicative of the opportunities on the horizon for India.

Anwesha Basu and Arnab Chakrabarti are Assistant Professors in the Department of Economics, FLAME University

A looming shift?

The data for the charts were sourced from the World Integrated Trade Solution by the World Bank

CHARTS 1A & 1B: India's and Bangladesh's shares in the EU's import basket for knitted/crocheted garments (1A) and woven garments (1B) (in %)

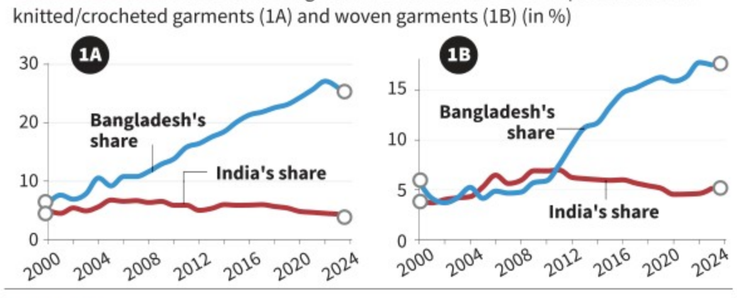
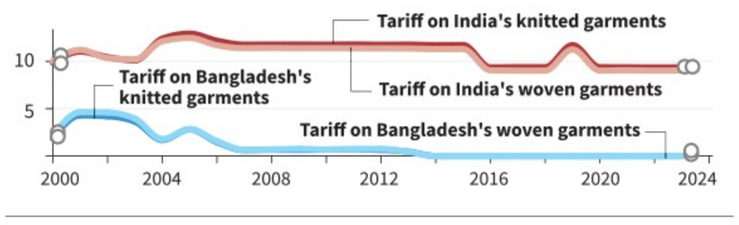


TABLE 2: Unit value comparisons of major export commodities (in $ per unit)

Commodities	Year	Bangladesh	India
T-shirts (knitted/crocheted)	2023	2.6	3.35
T-shirts (knitted/crocheted)	2024	2.4	2.9
Jerseys (knitted/crocheted)	2023	6.4	7.5
Jerseys (knitted/crocheted)	2024	6.02	6.3
Men's suits, jackets, trousers (woven)	2023	9	13.4
Men's suits, jackets, trousers (woven)	2024	9.2	12.5
Women's suits, jackets, dresses (woven)	2023	7.5	9.5
Women's suits, jackets, dresses (woven)	2024	7.5	9.6
Men's shirts (woven)	2023	7.5	10.4
Men's shirts (woven)	2024	7.4	10.14

CHART 3: Tariffs (in %) imposed by the EU on India and Bangladesh for garments



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 17, 1976

Campaign in China initiated by Mao

Hong Kong, Feb. 16: China's current political struggle, which appears to be spearheaded against the Vice-Premier, Mr. Teng Hsiao-ping was "personally initiated" by the Communist Party Chairman, Mr. Mao Tse-tung, Shanghai Radio reported to-day.

The campaign began as a debate over education policies. Recently it has turned into a vehement attack on leaders purged during the Cultural Revolution and who have been restored to power but have refused to make proper penance.

Mr. Teng, host to the U.S. President, Mr. Gerald Ford, during his December visit to Peking, is the most prominent leader in this category.

The Shanghai broadcast reported that a mass rally was held in China's largest city last Friday under the sponsorship of the Shanghai Revolutionary Committee. About 1,800 people attended mainly committee cadres and officials of scientific and technological institutes in the city.

That rally was believed to be one of the first – if not the first – mass meetings not confined to a college campus since the criticism heated up against Mr. Teng.

The broadcast said the current struggle against the "right deviationist wind" was significant. In addition to denouncing alleged attempts by rehabilitated persons such as Mr. Teng, to restore other Cultural Revolution victims to power, it also attacked the economic policies they are pushing.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 17, 1926

League's anti-malaria campaign

Rugby, Feb. 16: The Health Organisation of the League of Nations has arranged to hold next summer in London, Paris and Hamburg, special laboratory courses on malaria, which will be reserved exclusively for medical officers. During its tours of the Eastern and Southern Europe, the League's Malaria Commission discovered that several countries were prevented from conducting systematic anti-malaria campaign owing to the shortage of specially trained physicians.

From Page One

NGT clears ₹92,000-cr. Great Nicobar project

The NGT Bench, headed by its Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava, noted that it found no error in the drafting of the terms of reference for the HPC, adding that the applicants did not point out "any other substantial issue" that should have been examined by the HPC.

Further, noting the Union government's stance against public disclosure of the HPC report, given that it is "of strategic, defence and national importance and has confidential and privileged information", the NGT said, "The above disclosures reveal that the project is very important for India."

The NGT order said that to ensure "full and effective" compliance with the EC conditions, the Environment Ministry "will undertake all measures to protect the coral reefs along the coastal stretch and will also ensure coral regeneration through proved scientific method for regeneration". The NGT asked the Environment Ministry to prepare and approve an "implementation plan" in this regard

'Responsibility of Environment Ministry'

On erosion of shorelines of the Great Nicobar Island, the NGT said it "will be the responsibility" of the Environment Ministry to "ensure that on account of proposed constructions which includes foreshore development, there is no erosion/shoreline change". On protecting coral reefs, the Bench relied on the government's submissions that "no coral reef exists within the work area of the project."

The applicants had also submitted that the Environmental Impact Assessment for the project was conducted for just one season, as opposed to three seasons as mandated by regulations. On this, the NGT noted the government's submissions that "since there is no high erosion site in Andaman & Nicobar, therefore, three-season data is not required".

While the project's environmental clearance was under challenge before the NGT, aspects of the project's forest clearance are currently under challenge before the Calcutta High Court. Apart from the alarm raised by conservationists and activists about the project's potential damage to the ecology , locals on the island have objected to the project's approval, alleging that their consent for it had not been taken lawfully. The locals – the Nicobarese and the Shompen – have alleged that their rights on forest lands which are supposed to be used for the project had not been settled.

India's AI summit opens to massive crowds

The summit featured over 100 events, excluding those that were not livestreamed. In the exhibition hall, over 400 booths were active, spanning industry, academia, startups, and tech giants.

Logistical challenges

However, the event was not without hitches – many attendees complained online about overcrowding, long queues at food courts, where some vendors refused digital payments. In the afternoon, parts of the venue were cleared for security sanitisation, leading to exhibitors being asked to vacate at short notice. One exhibitor complained that wearable devices on display were stolen. Access to several areas was also restricted later in the day, resulting in long queues.

There were, however, some novel arrangements. A quick-commerce platform set up grocery and snack drop-off points across Bharat Mandapam, while an online food ordering and delivery company facilitated food deliveries. Digi Yatra was at entry gates, enabling attendees to use facial recognition for automated access.

Mr. Modi is scheduled to address the plenary session on Thursday, when the event will be closed to general visitors.

SC to review if data law delivers a 'blow' to RTI

Mr. Bhushan argued that a five-judge Constitution Bench in its November 2019 judgment in *Central Public Information Officer versus Supreme Court of India* had examined Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act to apply the proportionality test to balance the right to information against the right to privacy. The 2019 judgment held that personal information should remain in the realm of privacy unless disclosure was necessary in the larger public interest.

"It is an unreasonable restriction on the right under Article 19. Privacy is not a fundamental right available to the State. It violates Article 14 by equating the privacy of public functionaries to that of ordinary citizens. It inverts the jurisprudence of privacy vis-à-vis the right to information and prioritises privacy over the larger public interest of transparency and open governance," Mr. Nayak's petition argued.

Mr. Bhushan said the consequence of the DPDP provision was both immediate and serious. "Every RTI application involving identifiable public officials, procurement records, audit reports, appointment files, utilisation of public funds, or exercise of statutory discretion can now be denied automatically on the ground that it 'relates to personal information'," Mr. Bhushan submitted.

The petitioners contended that the amendment to Section 8(1)(j) of the RTI Act has rendered the "right to information illusory".

SC dismisses pleas against Himanta's 'hate speech', video

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India asks petitioners to approach the Gauhati High Court despite petitioners pointing out that the head of the Assam government is indulging in hate speech

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday found "no good reason" to entertain a series of petitions seeking a criminal investigation against Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for giving communal speeches and for a social media post, since deleted, depicting him firing a gun towards an animated image of two Muslim men.

Instead, a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant asked the petitioners, including the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Communist Party of India, to approach the Gauhati High Court despite the petitioners pointing out that Mr. Sarma is the "boss of Assam".

The Supreme Court declined to entertain the petition, though it agreed with the petitioners that no political leader or constitutional officeholder should conduct themselves in a manner that harms the secular ethos enshrined in the Constitution.

> But such people [Sarma] demoralise the country... His speeches and conduct are a brazen attack on the ethos of the country and the sanctity of his constitutional office. The Supreme Court is not barred from taking a petition directly under Article 32 of the Constitution. It is the discretion of the Supreme Court
>
> **A.M. SINGHVI**
> Senior advocate

The petitioner-parties have accused Mr. Sarma of indulging in a "sustained pattern of hate speeches". They said the social media post, from the "official handle of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Assam on X, and thereafter widely disseminated, has been the most blatant and disturbing manifestation of the pattern complained of".

The petition said that the video was removed from the public domain following severe backlash. However, the material continued to be circulated through other platforms.

The petitioners, led by senior advocates A.M. Singhvi and C.U. Singh and advocate Nizam Pasha, submitted that Mr. Sarma, while holding the office of the Chief Minister of Assam, gave speeches which "target, terrorise, and instigate hostility and overt violence against the Muslim community residing in Assam".

The Supreme Court requested the Gauhati High Court Chief Justice to expeditiously list and hear the petitions, if they are filed before the High Court.

The CJI complained that "every matter" was directly filed before the Supreme Court by parties who ignored the powers of the High Courts. "Whatever the Supreme Court can do, the High Courts can also do," Chief Justice Kant said.

"But such people [Sarma] demoralise the country... His speeches and conduct are a brazen attack on the ethos of the country and the sanctity of his constitutional office. The Supreme Court is not barred from taking a petition directly under Article 32 of the Constitution. It is the discretion of the Supreme Court," Mr. Singhvi submitted.

The CJI said High Courts would be demoralised with petitions bypassing them to come straight to the Supreme Court.

EC suspends seven Bengal officials for 'serious misconduct'

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

All seven officials are State government employees assigned to work for the SIR process

The Election Commission (EC) exercised its powers under electoral laws to suspend seven officials from West Bengal over "serious misconduct" related to the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in the State.

All seven officials are State government employees assigned to work for the SIR process.

Disciplinary action

In a letter dated February 15, Sujeet Kumar Mishra, Secretary, EC, wrote to the Chief Secretary of West Bengal, Nandini Chakraborty, asking that disciplinary proceedings be initiated against the seven officials.

"... Suspension with immediate effect for serious misconduct, dereliction of duty and misuse of statutory powers in connection with SIR," the letter from EC stated.

Disciplinary proceedings should be initiated immediately, and the EC kept informed, the letter said.

EC directives

On February 13, Ms. Chakraborty was summoned by the EC and asked to comply with all pending directives from the poll body, including payment of remuneration to booth-level officers, and the filing of formal complaints against on-duty officers flagged for misconduct. Ms. Chakraborty was given time till February 17 to comply.

Manoj Pant, Ms. Chakraborty's predecessor, was also rapped by the EC for similar reasons.

Since the start of the SIR process, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and officials of her government have been at loggerheads with the EC.

Centre silent on Pannun case; officials await U.S. court documents after Gupta pleads guilty

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Three days after Indian citizen Nikhil Gupta pleaded "guilty" in a court in New York to charges of murder, conspiracy, and money laundering in order to assassinate Khalistani activist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, the government has yet to comment on the case.

According to investigators in the United States, Mr. Gupta, an Indian businessman, worked with an Indian "government employee" Vikash Yadav, believed to have been associated with India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), to hire a hitman to carry out Pannun's murder for a sum of $100,000. Mr. Yadav, who was arrested in December 2023 in Delhi in a separate case of kidnapping and extortion, has been out on bail since April 2024, and is expected to appear for his next hearing later this week on February 20, according to his lawyers.

Indian national Nikhil Gupta being extradited to the United States, from Prague, Czech Republic in June 2024. PTI

In court last Friday, Mr. Gupta, who had thus far pleaded "not guilty", made an unexpected appearance, and pleaded guilty to the three counts – murder-for-hire, conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire, and conspiracy to commit money laundering.

The External Affairs Ministry refused to comment on the developments in the New York court.

Gupta's consular access

Officials indicated that they would await court documents, and confirmed that the Indian Consulate-General in New York had been granted consular access to Mr. Gupta, an Indian citizen, and were prepared to assist him with any consular requirements.

In his pleadings, Mr. Gupta told the judge in the Southern District of New York court that in 2023 he "agreed with another person" to murder a person in the U.S., and delivered $15,000 as an advance for the job. Mr. Gupta will face the court again on May 29 for sentencing. It is unclear, however, whether he has confessed his guilt in lieu of a lesser sentence as part of a larger agreement with the U.S. Attorney's office, which would involve his cooperation in the investigation or as an "approver".

"The FBI will continue to aggressively defend the homeland against any foreign adversaries who target our citizens for exercising their constitutionally protected rights," FBI Assistant Director in-charge James Barnacle said in a statement after the guilty plea, and said Mr. Gupta facilitated a "foreign adversary's unlawful effort to silence a vocal critic of the Indian government".

The government has denied any knowledge or involvement in the plot to kill Pannun, which Canadian officials say is linked to the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada in June 2023.

With Mr. Gupta choosing to waive the requirement of a trial in the U.S., the focus of investigators would turn next to the prosecution of Mr. Yadav, who has an FBI "wanted" notice out for him.

According to a second indictment filed by the U.S. Attorney's office in October 2024, Mr. Gupta took orders from Mr. Yadav, and exchanged messages on organising the killing of Pannun, who is wanted in India on terror charges.

(With inputs from Vijaita Singh)

J&K plans to harness river waters as IWT is in abeyance

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The Jammu & Kashmir government is mulling to take advantage of the suspended Indus Water Treaty (IWT) by diverting, for the first time, water from the Ravi river in Punjab to the Jammu region, and push for the revival of the Tulbul Navigation Barrage project in the Kashmir region.

Sources said Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has raised the issue with the Centre. The Tulbul project hit a dead end when Pakistan raised objections in 1987 under the IWT. However, the Centre put the treaty in abeyance after the 2025 Pahalgam attack.

The State has made a proposal to to enable yearround navigation on the Wular lake by maintaining a minimum depth of water, which was not possible because of the IWT.

Two Pakistan nationals escape from juvenile home

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

Three jail inmates, including two Pakistani nationals, allegedly escaped from a juvenile home in Jammu's R.S. Pura on Monday.

The police identified the escapees as Karajeet Singh, a resident of Dablehar R.S. Pura, and Mohd Suna-ullah and Ahsan Anwar, both Pakistani nationals.

Initial reports suggested they escaped occurred around 5.15 p.m. The trio allegedly assaulted the guards on duty and managed to escape from the facility. One of the accused brandished a pistol to threaten the staff of the observation home. "The injured police personnel were provided medical assistance," an official said.

Officials said special teams were constituted to trace the escaped inmates. Raids were also conducted in multiple areas to find the absconding inmates.

17 tourism destinations that were closed after Pahalgam attack reopened in J&K

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday announced the reopening of 17 tourist destinations, which were closed after the Pahalgam attack 10 months ago.

"After a thorough security review and discussion, Mr. Sinha has ordered the reopening of more tourist spots in Kashmir and Jammu divisions, which were temporarily closed as a precautionary measure," a Lok Bhavan spokesperson said.

The destinations reopened in the Kashmir Valley included Yousmarg, Doodhpathri, Dandipora Park, Peer Ki Gali, Dubjan, Padpawan, Astanpora, Tulip Garden, Thajiwas Glacier, Hung Park, and Wular-Watlab.

"Three sites in the Kashmir division (Gurez and Athwatoo in Bandipora and Bangus in Kupwara) and Ramkund in Ramban in the Jammu division will be reopened once snow gets cleared," the spokesperson said.

The reopened sites include the Tulip Garden in Srinagar.

The three tourist spots reopened in the Jammu division are Devi Pindi, Mahu Mangat and Mughal Maidan.

Forty-eight destinations were closed in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead on April 22, 2025. On June 14, 2025, 16 destinations were reopened to tourists.

The closure of the destinations heavily impacted winter tourism in Kashmir. Hundreds of local people dependent on tourism lost their livelihood.

In the Jammu division, Lieutenant-General P.K. Mishra, General Officer Commanding of the Army's White Knight Corps, on Monday toured Kishtwar district in the Chenab Valley and reviewed the counter-terrorism grid and operational preparedness of the troops.

"The GOC, accompanied by GOC CIF (Delta), visited the general area of Kishtwar, J-K, to review the counter-terrorism grid and assess the operational preparedness of deployed units," the White Knight Corps said on X.

He was briefed on the prevailing security situation.

BJP ignoring injustice faced by gig workers, says Rahul Gandhi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Monday, alleged that the Union government and BJP-ruled States were turning a blind eye to the injustices faced by gig workers.

Class and caste-based discrimination were deeply embedded in the sector, and there was little accountability for companies, Mr. Gandhi said.

The Congress leader recently interacted with a delegation of gig workers at a 'Jan Sansad' – a meeting he holds with groups in the Parliament complex.

In a post on Facebook, Mr. Gandhi said the discussions showed the need for strong government action to ensure workers benefited from the gig economy.

"Today, gig workers lack stable income, social security, or basic amenities like medical care and insurance. Work-life balance is disrupted, and basic human dignity is being eroded," Mr. Gandhi said. Women gig workers faced "double exploitation", combining economic insecurity with a lack of safety and respect, he alleged.

Rahul Gandhi

Accusing the BJP of inaction, he said governments at the Centre and in States had failed to enact strong laws or provide social security for gig workers.

Congress-ruled States were working on rights-based frameworks to ensure social security and equal treatment for gig workers, he said.

Assam Cong. leader rethinks resignation from party

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Causing a flutter in poll-bound Assam, former State Congress president Bhupen Kumar Borah announced resignation from the party on Monday, but later sought time to think the decision over.

Mr. Borah made it apparent that he was unhappy with the State leadership of the party. "I have apprised the central leadership that the future of the party will be uncertain if it is led this way. Everyone, including our alliance partners, knows what is happening in the party and how it is being led," Mr. Borah said.

Senior leaders rushed to Mr. Borah's Guwahati residence following the announcement to try and convince him to withdraw his resignation. "My old colleagues and central leaders have given certain suggestions. However, I have sought some time," Mr. Borah told journalists, adding that he would go by what his family advises and let the leadership know by Tuesday morning. The Congress's Assam in-charge, Jitendra Singh, however, indicated that Mr. Borah withdrew his resignation after senior leader Rahul Gandhi spoke to him for about 15 minutes.

Global platforms must respect local culture and laws: Vaishnaw

Union Minister, at the AI Impact Summit, says there are no 'physical boundaries' in the digital world, but acceptability differs within societies; govt. initiatives will generate more opportunities for global media industry to 'create in India', he says

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Tech talks: PM Narendra Modi and Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

Global content-making platforms must be aware of the cultural context of the countries in which they operate and work according to the constitutional and legal frameworks there, Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, said on Monday.

He was speaking with Charles Rivkin, chairman and CEO of the Motion Picture Association, at an official satellite event of the AI Impact Summit, titled "Rewarding our creative future in the age of AI – strengthening India through innovation, trust and talent".

The Union Minister said global OTT and digital content platforms must function in accordance with the laws of the host country, rather than those of their parent country.

"In the digital world, there are no physical boundaries. In that scenario, it is very easy for the OTT platforms to forget the cultural context, which is very important. What is normal in one society, may not be normal in another society," Mr. Vaishnaw told Mr. Rivkin.

The Minister said global platforms such as Motion Picture Association and Netflix must be aware of the "cultural context of the country in which they are operating".

Media platforms must function in accordance with the host country's laws, rather than that of their parent country, the Minister says

'Create in India'

Mr. Vaishnaw said reskilling, upskilling, and new skilling initiatives by the Union government will create more opportunities for the global media industry to come and create in India.

"Very soon, we will be launching a 'Create in India' mission. Like the semiconductor mission, it will also be very industry-oriented, employment-oriented, and future-oriented mission," he said.

The Union Minister said that the initiative would make sure that India became the "most-preferred platform of the world for creating" and make available a "future-ready talent pipeline which keeps that growth we need to have for the next 25 years".

Mr. Vaishnaw also highlighted the "natural inclination" of the country's large population toward digital technologies. He said people in India were "digitally native" and naturally adapt to new technologies.

Talking about the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi, he said global leadership was gathering in India to deliberate on how to reap the benefits of digital innovation while curbing its disadvantages.

'Advance of AI creating a governance responsibility'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Artificial intelligence is a double-edged sword, and the governance objective should be to sharpen the edge of opportunity while blunting the edge of risk, Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Centre, said on Monday. "Digital penetration has increased, and children are increasingly exposed to AI-driven platforms. We still do not fully know the long-term effects of growing up with AI companions and synthetic media," he said at a session at the ongoing AI Impact Summit.

"The need to embed child-specific safeguards and guardrails into the governance framework is not a choice, but it is a must," Mr. Sood said, underlining that the advance of AI has created a governance responsibility.

AI Summit important for cooperation to unlock potential: U.K.

Press Trust of India
LONDON

David Lammy

The U.K.'s focus during the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi will be on championing how artificial intelligence can supercharge growth, unlock new jobs, improve public services, and deliver benefits for people around the globe, the British government has said.

The U.K. delegation, led by Deputy Prime Minister David Lammy and AI Minister Kanishka Narayan, is keen to highlight how AI can improve everyday life in every corner of the world and make the case for AI as an engine of renewal that can help doctors diagnose faster, teachers personalise learning, councils deliver services in minutes, and businesses create the next generation of good jobs. "This summit is an important moment in determining how we can work together with our international partners to unlock the full benefits and potential of AI, while baking in robust and fair safety standards that protect us all," Mr. Lammy said in a pre-summit statement.

"AI is the defining technology of our generation, and we're determined to make sure it delivers for everyone," said Mr. Narayan, the first Indian-origin MP from Wales.

"It can cut waiting times, transform public services, create new jobs and give hard-working communities a fresh start – and that's exactly the message we're taking to the summit. It is central to our plans for delivering national renewal, but its benefits can't and shouldn't be reserved by the few," he said.

The U.K.'s Department for Science, Innovation and Technology said India and Britain were "natural tech partners", with software giants such as Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, and Wipro expanding their operations across the U.K.

India is an important market for British businesses generally, with U.K. firms generating more than 47.5 billion pounds in revenue from their business in India, it said.

Modi to meet Macron in Mumbai today, hold talks on strategic ties

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Welcome sight: Billboards welcoming French President Emmanuel Macron ahead of his visit to India, seen in Mumbai on Monday. AFP

French President Emmanuel Macron and First Lady Brigitte Macron arrived in Mumbai on Monday night for an official visit to India till February 19.

The French President will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Mumbai on Tuesday, and the two leaders will exchange memoranda of understanding (MoUs) before giving a press statement at the Lok Bhavan here. The meeting will focus on cementing the strategic partnership between the two countries and diversifying it into new and emerging areas. Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron will also exchange views on issues of regional and global importance and will review the progress made in the bilateral strategic partnership.

Elaborate security arrangements have been made in the country's financial capital to host the dignitaries. Mr. Macron will be in Delhi on February 18 and 19 and will attend the ongoing AI Impact Summit.

The French leader will attend several private engagements and meetings in Mumbai, where temporary traffic restrictions have been put in place. This will likely include a meeting with the film industry. In the evening, Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron will launch the 'India-France Year of Innovation 2026' and will address a gathering of business leaders, start-ups, researchers, and other innovators from both countries. They will visit the Gateway of India thereafter for a cultural commemoration programme.

India, France to hold sixth annual defence dialogue today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the Minister for Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs of France, Catherine Vautrin, will co-chair the sixth India-France Annual Defence Dialogue in Bengaluru on Tuesday, and review the bilateral defence cooperation with focus on expanding industrial collaboration.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the defence cooperation agreement is expected to be renewed for another 10 years during the meeting.

U.S. trade deal 'mortgages' farmer interests, energy security, says Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary Randeep Surjewala, right, addressing a press conference in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

Accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "surrendering" before the U.S., the Congress on Monday said the India-U.S. interim trade agreement undermines India's energy security, data and digital autonomy, livelihood of farmers, and economic self-reliance.

The principal Opposition party said it was ready to debate the issue with the ruling party at a place and time of their choice.

"I have been instructed by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi *ji* to place the facts," party general secretary Randeep Surjewala said addressing a press conference, adding that he was ready to debate with them "in the BJP office even today".

Mr. Surjewala was responding to the challenge posed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday for "Mr. Gandhi to debate the trade deal with the chief of the BJP Yuva Morcha (youth wing)".

Mr. Surjewala said trade agreements must be based on parity and mutual interest, not at the cost of national sovereignty.

"National interest cannot be mortgaged under the guise of a trade deal," he said, describing the agreement as a "one-sided and unequal" pact that compromises India's core economic priorities.

Mr. Surjewala alleged that the framework agreement of February 6 opened the door to duty-free imports of American agricultural and food products, which he said would "devastate" the livelihoods of crores of farmers across the country.

Former Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma also criticised the Centre, calling the Prime Minister's remarks on trade negotiations under the Congress-led UPA government "unfair and incorrect". He said that during the UPA government, India negotiated trade agreements with ASEAN, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Malaysia as a "self-assured nation and a sovereign equal".

"During the UPA government, India's economy grew rapidly and registered an average annual GDP growth over 8%. Indian economy withstood the global meltdown following the 2008 banking and financial crash and rebounded quickly," Mr. Sharma told *The Hindu*, describing the interim trade deal with the U.S. as a "sell-out" deal.

'Full Manipur Cabinet, Ministers' portfolio will be decided soon'

Deputy Chief Minister says the rehabilitation of people displaced by the long violence in the State is a priority for the new government; on his colleague Nemcha Kipgen, a Kuki-Zo leader, not being able to travel to Imphal, he says, 'She is supporting us to reach out to the people'; the State government plans to hold a Cabinet meeting in Senapati, a Naga area, and go there via Kangpokpi, a Kuki-Zo area

INTERVIEW

Losii Dikho

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

On February 4, President's Rule was revoked in Manipur and a new Chief Minister, Yumnam Khemchand Singh, a Meitei, was sworn in, along with two deputies – Losii Dikho, a Naga, and Nemcha Kipgen, a Kuki-Zo. Mr. Dikho, from the Naga People's Front, an alliance partner of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), speaks about the priorities of the new government. Edited excerpts:

It has been over 10 days since the swearing-in ceremony of the Chief Minister and the two Deputy CMs, including you, took place. Why is the full Cabinet not in place and why have portfolios not been allocated yet?

The portfolios will be allocated after the full Cabinet is expanded. I spoke to the Chief Minister, and he agreed with me.

When is it expected?

It should not take much time. And of course, it has to be coordinated with the Centre.

You were the chief guest at a football match organised by the Zomi Council last week at Churachandpur. What was the outcome?

It was a fruitful trip. The nine tribes under the nomenclature Zomi had organised the event. I had a closed-door meeting with all the tribe leaders, the president, and all of them strongly supported the formation of the government. They invited me again for another festival on February 20.

After the ethnic violence between Meitei and Kuki-Zo people erupted on May 3, 2023, over 60,000 people were displaced from their homes. What is the government's strategy to rehabilitate them?

PTI

This is a priority. Money has been distributed among the people and additional money has been provided to the displaced people who are moving back to their homes.

The Litan area in Ukhrul district has witnessed clashes and arson between the Kuki and Naga communities over the past two weeks? How is the situation now, and what is the government's strategy?

The issue is not between all Nagas and Kukis. Few members of Tangkhul Nagas and Kukis were involved. But we cannot keep silent and we intervened and involved the United Naga Council and the head of the Tangkhul tribe; we joined hands.

The land dispute between the two communities should be settled and the land ownership and agreement has to be worked out. Both communities have come to an understanding and stopped the fight but till now no agreement has been signed. But it is almost under control. Naga people do not want to have these tensions any more, but the landowners have to be recognised

The other Deputy CM, Nemcha Kipgen, a Kuki-Zo, has not been able to travel to Imphal yet. So how is the government functioning and how are the three of you communicating?

She is at present at her home in Kangpokpi, and every day, we speak on the phone.

She is supporting us to reach out to the people as she cannot come to Imphal. We do virtual video meetings. So far, two Cabinet meetings under the Chief Minister have taken place where she participated through a video call.

What about the free movement of all vehicles and people from all communities on National Highway-2? It hasn't started yet.

I have spoken to the Deputy CM and our second plan is that we will have a Cabinet meeting in Senapati (Naga area) next. The CM told her that we will go to Senapati by road via Kangpokpi (Kuki-Zo area, NH-2 passes through here) and that we have to reach out to people. As the new government has been installed, there is a good response from all the communities. I reached out to the Thadou people in Kangpokpi, and they have invited me to attend the church on Sunday. It is a positive sign.

INBRIEF

Defence personnel in uniform attend private event, spark row

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday felicitated awardees at the Bhavya Bharat Bhushan Awards during Sivaratri celebrations in Coimbatore. The awards were instituted by Jaggi Vasudev's Isha Foundation. But the presence of defence personnel in uniform at a private event sparked controversy with several retired officers objecting to it. Major-General B.S. Dhanoa (retd) said military officers can attend private functions "except that they should not be doing so in uniform". Lt. Gen. D.S. Hooda (retd) said, "Political leaders must ensure that uniformed personnel are not invited to functions in which questions can be raised." The ceremony honoured the Indian Armed Forces for Operation Sindoor.

HC grants bail to SDPI chief in money laundering case

The Delhi High Court on Monday granted bail to Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) national president M.K. Faizy in a case of alleged money laundering related to the proscribed outfit Popular Front of India (PFI). Justice Neena Krishna Bansal noted that Mr. Faizy has been in jail since March 3, 2025. "Continued incarceration without commencement and foreseeable completion of trial will amount to pre-trial punishment, which is impermissible under Article 21," the judge said. The ED said that at the time the PFI was declared unlawful in 2022, he remained an active member.

ED imposes ₹184 cr. fine on NewsClick, its founder

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The adjudicating authority under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) has passed an order imposing a penalty of ₹184 crore in the case of PPK Newsclick Studio Private Limited, the Enforcement Directorate said on Monday. The company owns NewsClick, a digital news platform, which was founded by its editor-in-chief Prabir Purkayastha.

The adjudication proceedings were initiated on a complaint under Section 16 of FEMA filed by the ED alleging contraventions of FEMA and the regulations regarding the utilisation of foreign funds. It found that transactions were deliberately structured to defeat regulatory framework of foreign exchanges.

Seven killed in fire at illegal firecracker unit in Rajasthan

It was a garment factory but firecrackers were being manufactured inside illegally, says official; Chief Minister directs detailed investigation; some of the deceased workers were from Bihar

Press Trust of India
JAIPUR

A firefighter tries to douse a fire at a factory in the Khushkhera-Karouli Industrial Area in Bhiwadi, Rajasthan on Monday. PTI

Seven people were killed and two critically injured after a fire broke out at an illegal firecracker manufacturing factory in Bhiwadi town in Khairthal-Tijara district of Rajasthan on Monday, officials said.

The incident occurred in the Khushkhera-Karoli industrial area in Bhiwadi. "Seven persons have died in the incident. It was a garment factory but firecrackers were being manufactured inside it illegally," Sumitra Pareek, Additional District Magistrate, said.

She said that two people trapped in the factory were rescued.

They were admitted to the Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi in a critical condition.

She said that the police came to know about the incident during a routine patrol, following which a rescue operation was launched immediately.

Call for probe

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma instructed district administrations to carry out relief and rescue work immediately. Mr. Sharma later reached the spot and visited the factory.

The Chief Minister directed officials to carry out a detailed investigation and to run a special campaign in the Bhiwadi industrial area to conduct checking in all the industrial units.

"All the industrial units will be checked in Bhiwadi industrial area. If any violation of compliances is found, action will be taken," he said.

As per the preliminary report, there were more than 20 people inside the factory. As soon as the fire broke out, many workers managed to come out, while nine were trapped. Seven of them were burnt alive. The fire was brought under control after more than one-and-a-half hour.

A CCTV footage also surfaced which shows an explosion before the fire.

The bodies were severely burnt and many were reduced to skeletons. Some of the deceased workers were from Bihar.

A forensic team reached the spot to collect evidence. The team has so far taken samples of bones and burnt firecrackers from the factory.

Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled the death of factory workers .

In a social media post, Mr. Radhakrishnan said, "Heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families, and prayers for the speedy recovery of those injured."

The fire accident in Bhiwadi is tragic and deeply saddening the Prime Minister's Office said on X.

Congress State President Govind Singh Dotasra said that it was an unfortunate incident and demanded an investigation in the matter.

Board exams begin today; CBSE clarifies on twin chances

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

If a student has not appeared in three or more subjects in first Class 10 exam, he or she will barred from taking the second

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has issued a clarification regarding Class 10 Board examinations, with the first set of exams scheduled to begin on Tuesday.

In response to requests from students seeking permission to appear only in the second set of exams for unavoidable reasons, the CBSE has outlined clear rules regarding eligibility.

The CBSE has said that it is mandatory for Class 10 students to appear in the first Board exam, and those who do not attempt at least three subjects in it will be placed in the "essential repeat" category and can only take the main examination next year in February, officials said.

The clarification comes after the Board received a few requests to allow those unable to appear in the first set to appear in the second. From this year, the CBSE had said that students of Class 10 can appear for Board examinations twice, in a bid to improve their performance if they so choose.

Board exams for Classes 10 and 12 will begin on Tuesday, with over 46 lakh students set to appear from India and abroad.

Improvement option

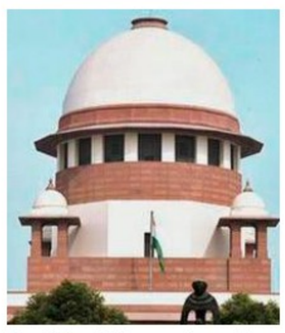
"It is mandatory for all the students to appear in the first Board examination. All passed and eligible students will be allowed to improve their performance in any of the three subjects out of science, mathematics, social science, and languages," CBSE Examination Controller Sanyam Bhardwaj said.

"If a student has not appeared in three or more subjects in the first examination, then he or she will not be allowed to appear in the second examination. Such students will be placed in the 'essential repeat' category and can take the examination only next year in the main examinations in the month of February next year."

Students who fail in one or more papers in the first exam will be allowed to appear in the second exam under the compartment category, he said.

SC to take a fresh look at pleas on *ex post facto* eco clearance regime

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



The CJI said the court would not tolerate any adjournments on February 25.

A three-judge Bench of the Supreme Court on Monday decided to take a fresh look at writ petitions and appeals concerning *ex post facto* environmental clearance of construction and public projects across the country.

The Bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant scheduled the case for a detailed hearing on February 25. The CJI said the court would not tolerate any adjournments on that day.

A Division Bench of the Supreme Court had struck down the Centre's grant of *ex post facto* or retrospective environmental clearances (ECs) as a "gross illegality" and an "anathema" in a judgment on May 16, 2025.

However, a subsequent three-judge Bench of the court had recalled the May 16 judgment in a majority verdict delivered in November 2025.

The majority opinion for the three-judge Bench authored by Chief Justice (now retired) B.R. Gavai had concluded that the continued operation of the May 16 judgment would have a "devastating effect" and "thousands of crores of rupees" invested in building and infrastructure projects would "go to waste". Justice K. Vinod Chandran had backed his view, forming the majority on the Bench.

Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, the third member of the Bench, had however recorded a sharp dissent. He had termed the majority view as an "innocent expression of opinion" which overlooked the "very fundamentals of environmental jurisprudence".

The majority opinion of Chief Justice Gavai and Justice Chandran had, while recalling the May 16 judgment, ordered the writ petitions, to be "restored to file". On Monday, petitioners, led by senior advocates Sanjay Parikh and Gopal Sankaranarayanan, argued that the majority opinion of November 2025 authored by Justice Gavai had only recalled the May 2025 judgment without expressly giving an authoritative finding on the validity of the two Office Memorandums (OMs) of 2017 and 2021, which had formed the bedrock on which the government had worked the ex-post facto environmental clearance regime.

The majority judgment in November 2025 had recorded that the Division Bench which struck down the OMs did not have the benefit of several judicial precedents before pronouncing their verdict on May 16.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Steel Authority of India, submitted that the May 2025 had put several significant public projects on hold, including an airport in Karnataka. Senior advocate P. Wilson and Tamil Nadu Advocate General P.S. Raman submitted that a 218-crore cancer hospital project was also halted abruptly.

12 candidates, including three from Rajasthan, bag perfect 100 score in JEE-Main: NTA

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

All 12 candidates are male, with 11 of them belonging to the general category

Twelve candidates have bagged the perfect 100 score in the Joint Entrance Exam (JEE)-Main 2026, with the highest number among them hailing from Rajasthan, the National Testing Agency (NTA) said on Monday.

More than 13.04 lakh candidates had appeared for the first edition of the crucial exam.

At least nine questions were dropped from the final answer key after discrepancies were highlighted by students and other stakeholders, sources said.

"For the nine questions dropped across multiple shifts, full marks will be awarded to all candidates who appeared for that particular shift," a source said.

In 2025, the number of questions dropped was six.

Among the candidates who secured an NTA score of 100, three are from Rajasthan, two from Andhra Pradesh, and one each is from Delhi, Bihar, Odisha, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Telangana.

All 12 candidates are male; 11 of them are from the general category.

Candidates who aced

The top scoring candidates are – Kabeer Chhillar, Chiranjib Kar, and Arnav Gautam from Rajasthan; Narendrababu Gari Mahith and Pasala Mohith from Andhra Pradesh; Shreyas Mishra from Delhi; Shubham Kumar from Bihar; Bhavesh Patra from Odisha; Anay Jain from Haryana; Madhav Viradiya from Maharashtra; Purohit Nimay from Gujarat; and Vivan Sharad Mahiswari from Telangana.

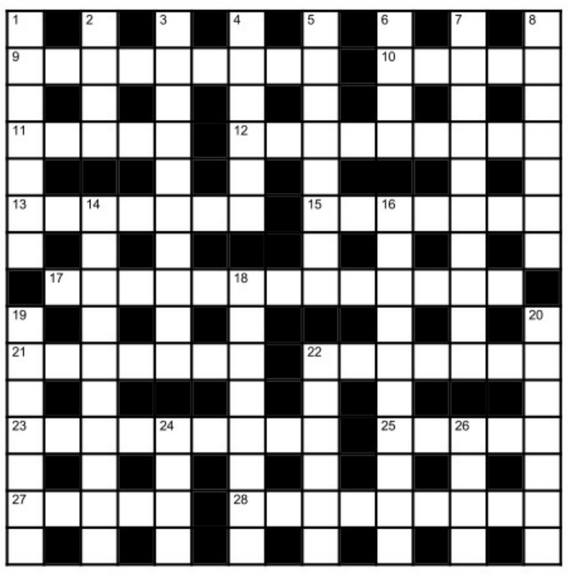
The NTA score is not the same as the percentage of marks obtained, but the normalised score, officials said. "NTA scores are normalised scores across multi-shift papers and are based on the relative performance of all those who appeared for the examination in one shift. The marks obtained are transformed into a scale ranging from 100 to 0 for each shift of examinees. The NTA score is not the same as the percentage of marks obtained," a senior official explained.

TH CROSSWORD + 14719

(set by Vidwan)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 Give explanation that is about having luck mostly at a particular time (9)
10 Please point out stupid mistake (5)
11 Paying guest has managed to cause extensive damage (5)
12 Tack of wind instrument section of orchestra/band (9)
13 Cases about volunteers (7)
15 Spooner's listing disease for medicinal case (7)
17 Officials, not rude masters (5,8)
21 Carmaker seen regularly at Shell Centre for a petroleum product (7)
22 Love to write diary regularly when school is accessible for all (4,3)
23 It prevents one from being caught with pants down (9)
25 Past unfolds before the end of title sequence (5)
27 A goodbye essentially is about love (5)
28 Girl without a teetotaller attitude or dullness (9)

Down

1 Starting to value! Could be top-secret! (7)
2 American soil over Russian body (4)
3 Bachelor life scribbled in one line (6,4)
4 Clergy orders lucrative wars right away (6)
5 Spooner's cushion piece is substandard (5,3)
6 Rich mostly have advantage (4)
7 Sanctioned a very quiet con at Enforcement Directorate (10)
8 In the middle of wager, with one to ten thousand at opening (7)
14 Run into monsters in alliance (10)
16 Name dropping Indian tennis legend, second in command (10)
18 Harry eats idly little by little (8)
19 Awful bit, baby's malnourished (7)
20 Small and petty English cunningly prepared content for printing (7)
22 Surge at happy hours, around mid-morning! (6)
24 Quarter of naked monsters (4)
26 Gang dudes occasionally give chills and fever (4)

SUDOKU

	7					9		6
1						5		
8			7		9	1		
6					3		1	
9		1	4		6	8		5
	3		1					9
		9	2		1			8
		7						1
2		3					9	

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

T	H	R	O	W		O	V	E
E		O		O		B		N
M	O	L	D	O	V	A		D
P		L				M		
O	D	O	U	R		A	B	B
R		N		E				R
A	S	S		A	N	T	R	E
R				L		E		E
Y	Q	U	E	M		A	D	D
		K				S		
S	U	E		D	W	E	L	L
T		L		E				I
A	V	E	R	A	G	E		B
T		L		L		R		E
E	L	E	C	T	O	R	A	L

E	R	B	O	A	R	D		
N		A		F		I		
D	O	W	A	G	E	R		
		D		H		T		
A	B	B	E	Y		A	N	Y
		R				N		
T	W	I	R	L				
E		O				A		
A	D	D	O	N		L	E	U
		E		O		N		
R	I	G	I	D				
		I				R		
B	R	O	N	C	H	I		
A		A		E				
R	O	L	L	S				

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	6	4	7	3	5	1	9	2
1	9	2	4	6	8	3	7	5
3	5	7	9	2	1	4	8	6
7	2	8	3	5	4	9	6	1
6	1	5	2	8	9	7	4	3
9	4	3	1	7	6	2	5	8
5	7	1	6	9	2	8	3	4
2	3	6	8	4	7	5	1	9
4	8	9	5	1	3	6	2	7

FAITH

Velavan, the boon giver

We are affectionate towards our family. We have great loyalty to our friends. But what happens when we die? How long are we in their thoughts? Thirumoolar, in a verse, describes the reaction of a person's loved ones when he dies, said So. So Meenakshisundaram in a discourse. Relatives and friends cry out loudly for the departed soul. They lament his death. Soon they stop referring to him by name, but talk of him as "the body," while they make arrangements for the funeral rites. Then they take the body to the burning ghat, where they set fire to it. Relatives then take a dip in a river, and then forget all about the dead man. When attachments are temporary and even memories are not permanent, why do we give so much importance to worldly attachments?

In verse 11 of his *Kandar Anubhuti*, great Muruga bhakta Arunagirinatha prays to Lord Murugan, asking Him to save him from such a fate. Arunagirinatha does not want his lifeless body to fall to the ground. He does not want to be surrounded by his family, who will weep over his body. He wants Murugan to save him from such a situation. Murugan changed Arunagirinatha into a parrot, and kept this parrot on his shoulder. Murugan of Thiruchengode draws many pilgrims and is called Sengottuvelan. Arunagirinatha refers to Sengottuvelan as 'Nagasala Velava,' Nagasala being another name for Thiruchengode. There are four kinds of poets – Asu kavi (spontaneous poet), madurakavi (poet who comes up with sweet words), chithira kavi (one capable of composing pattern poetry) and vistaara kavi (one who can write elaborate poetry). Murugan confers on people the ability to compose all four kinds of poetry.

INBRIEF

NPCI extends 'UPI One World' to AI Summit foreign visitors

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced the extension of the UPI One World wallet services for international visitors from over 40 countries attending the India AI Impact Summit 2026 from February 16-20 in New Delhi. "Through this pilot initiative, inbound foreign travellers will be able to make seamless, secure, and real-time Person-to-Merchant (P2M) UPI payments during their visit to India," the NPCI said in a statement.

Unemployment in India rose slightly to 5% in January: Govt.

The rate of unemployment in the country among persons aged 15 years and above rose slightly to 5% in January from 4.8% in December 2025, according to a government survey released on Monday. The unemployment rate recorded a marginal increase in January in both rural and urban areas, showed the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey. The data also showed lower labour force participation rate as well as workers population ratio across rural and urban areas. PTI

IIFL Finance to raise up to ₹2,000 crore through NCDs

IIFL Finance Ltd. has launched public issue of secured listed redeemable non-convertible debentures (NCDs) of face value of ₹1,000 each for an amount up to ₹500 crore (base issue size) with a green shoe option of up to ₹1,500 crore, cumulatively aggregating up to ₹2,000 crore (Tranche I issue limit). The Tranche I issue has 9 series of NCDs carrying fixed coupons on tenure of 24 months, 36 months, and 60 months with annual, monthly and cumulative interest options.

NSE gets SEBI nod for natural gas futures

Lalatendu Mishra
Saptaparno Ghosh
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

Heralding the institution of a market-based mechanism for price discovery and the availability of natural gas in the country, the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) said on Monday it had received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch Indian Natural Gas futures.

The NSE Indian Natural Gas futures would be monthly contracts. Additionally, at any point of time, there would be 12 monthly contracts available for trading.

The exchange also informed that further details on contract designs and launch timelines would be "announced in due course".

On January 8, NSE had first announced the strategic collaboration with the Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) to develop and set up Indian Natural Gas futures. It would seek to combine NSE's market infrastructures in the derivatives space and IGX's mechanism for spot trading of natural gas.

The introduction of the natural gas futures is expected to benefit gas producers, city gas distributors, power generators, fertiliser manufacturers, industrial consumers, traders and financial participants by "enabling effective hedging against price volatility and improving long-term planning", the NSE said.

January trade deficit widens before U.S. tariff relief kicks in

Sharp rise in gold and silver imports pushed up total imports by 12% month-on-month to $71.24 bn, while exports fell 5% to $36.56 bn; trade delegation to visit Washington next week for talks

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India's merchandise trade deficit widened to a three-month high of $34.68 billion in January, marking the final month impacted by around 50% U.S. tariff on Indian exports, which government officials said will be pared to 18% this week.

The wider-than-expected goods trade deficit was driven by a sharp rise in gold and silver imports, which pushed up total imports by 12% month-on-month to $71.24 billion, while exports fell 5% to $36.56 billion, data from the commerce ministry showed on Monday.

Goods surge: Shipments to the U.S. rose to $72.46 billion in the first 10 months of the fiscal year. REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump said earlier this month that he would slash tariffs on Indian goods to 18% from 50%, sparking relief among exporters and policymakers.

Mr. Trump said that India had agreed to cut Russian oil purchases and intended to more than double its annual imports of U.S. goods.

A trade delegation will travel to Washington next week to finalise a trade agreement, Rajesh Agrawal, India's trade secretary, told reporters on Monday.

The two nations are currently working on a trade pact on the basis of an interim framework, concluded earlier this month.

Merchandise exports to the U.S., India's largest export market, fell 4.5% month-on-month to $6.58 billion in January. Shipments to the U.S. rose to $72.46 billion in the first ten months of the fiscal year, data showed.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	83,277	0.79
US Dollar	90.74	-0.08
Gold	1,59,200	0.44
Brent oil	68.45	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2184.60	48.00
Adani Ports	1540.10	21.10
Apollo Hosp	7618.00	75.50
Asian Paints	2397.20	30.80
Axis Bank	1358.30	26.00
Bajaj Auto	9697.50	-62.50
Bajaj Finserv	2050.90	27.70
Bajaj Finance	1012.75	-12.00
Bharat Elec	438.00	2.45
Bharti Airtel	2029.40	24.70
Cipla	1356.40	24.90
Coal India	422.50	13.55
Dr Reddys Lab	1269.40	1.30
Eicher Motors	8010.50	-54.50
Eternal Ltd.	286.60	1.40
Grasim Ind	2912.70	24.70
HCL Tech	1461.80	6.60
HDFC Bank	925.80	21.90
HDFC Life	703.90	7.10
Hindalco	907.45	-1.55
Hind Unilever	2319.00	13.80
ICICI Bank	1411.60	-3.00
IntGlobeAvi	4940.80	11.60
Infosys	1365.60	-3.50
ITC	317.95	4.20
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	262.55	-1.40
JSW Steel	1248.20	16.20
Kotak Bank	425.60	4.95
Kwality Walls	29.42	-10.78
L&T	4201.50	27.60
M&M	3509.70	-23.70
Maruti Suzuki	15051.00	-186.00
Max Healthcare	1075.85	22.25
NestleIndia	1289.80	7.20
NTPC	369.10	6.10
ONGC	271.55	4.15
PowerGrid Corp	300.50	13.30
Reliance Ind	1437.10	17.50
SBI Life	2042.40	8.20
State Bank	1208.10	9.50
Shriram Finance Ltd.	1085.40	19.60
Sun Pharma	1700.50	3.00
TataConsumerProduct	1139.20	7.00
Tata Steel	205.81	2.63
TCS	2706.60	14.40
Tech Mahindra	1512.70	-21.70
Titan	4181.10	1.90
Tata Motors PV	377.25	-3.00
Trent Ltd.	4229.50	-22.50
UltraTech Cement	12981.00	18.00
Wipro	213.26	-0.83

L&T to sell Nabha Power to Torrent Power for ₹3,661 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The divestment is a value-driven monetisation exercise, the company said

L&T Power Development Ltd. (LTPDL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Larsen & Toubro (L&T), has announced to sell 100% of equity and convertible instruments in Nabha Power Ltd. (NPL) to Torrent Power Ltd., for ₹3,661 crore.

The transaction is subject to requisite regulatory approvals, L&T said in a filing. "Given NPL's long-term power purchase agreement and stable operating performance, the divestment is a value-driven monetisation exercise. The transaction is aligned with L&T's broader strategy to exit the development projects business," the company said.

Motilal Oswal Alternates raises ₹8,500 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Motilal Oswal Alternates said it had raised ₹8,500 crore for fifth private equity fund, India Business Excellence Fund V (IBEF V/ Fund V), making it the largest in the firm's private equity history.

"The fund witnessed strong participation from both global and domestic investors, significantly surpassing its initial fundraising target of ₹6,500 crore and completing the process in under 10 months from the fund launch in mid-April 2025.

The successful close reinforces Motilal Oswal Alternates' continued focus on backing high-growth, mid- to late-stage businesses and partnering with visionary entrepreneurs building enduring, category-defining companies," the firm said.

IBEF V had received commitments from a diversified global investor base.

Snapdeal fined ₹5 lakh

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has imposed a penalty of ₹5 lakh on Snapdeal for selling toys that do not comply with mandatory BIS certification. PTI

'India in demand by both developed countries and global south economies'

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
MUMBAI

India currently enjoys a place in the global economy where developed countries want to increasingly engage with it, while governments in smaller countries want India to anchor projects in those countries, Priyam Gandhi-Mody, the founder and chairperson of the Future Economic Cooperation Council (FECC) said.

Priyam Gandhi-Mody

The FECC is organising a three-day Global Economic Cooperation (GEC) summit in Mumbai on February 17-19, which will bring together delegations from both developed and developing countries.

The FECC is backed by the Ministry of External Affairs and the Govt. of Maharashtra. Ms. Gandhi-Mody said the ongoing global disruption is affecting every country, but simultaneously places India at an "interesting intersection".

"On the one side, we have larger economies and blocs like the European Union, the U.S., Australia, and other countries in the developed world wanting to engage more with India," she told *The Hindu*.

"On the other side, the countries that are smaller, particularly in the global south, are looking at having India be the anchor of important projects in their countries, and do something jointly with India."

(The reporter is at the GEC 2026 summit on the invitation of the FECC.)

Magnum Icecream to buy 26% in Kwality Walls

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The Netherlands-based Magnum Icecream Holdings is set to acquire 26% stake in Kwality Walls Ltd.

The total consideration of the acquisition is ₹1,303.03 crore, wherein Unilever Plc decided to sell a total of 61,08,93,729 equity shares, according to the public takeover notice.

High demand for domestic AI infrastructure: Neysa AI CEO

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Sovereignty, latency and compliance are driving demand for domestic AI infrastructure among enterprise clients, said Neysa AI CEO Sharad Sanghi.

Mr. Sanghi spoke to *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the AI Impact Summit, hours after news broke that his firm had raised $600 million from Blackstone, Inc., and was on the road to borrow another $600 million, for a war chest to procure GPUs to run AI on Indian servers.

Neysa's fundraise is notable because the vast majority of AI "inferencing," or responses to prompts, comes from datacentres abroad – a situation that causes little pain for retail users, but could be a source of discomfort for enterprises looking to incorporate sophisticated LLMs internally.

"Almost all the people who provide development platform want to set up increasing clusters in India," Mr. Sanghi said.

"Now with the tax holiday [for datacentres processing data for foreign entities], they will use India as a hub not only for India but also for the region. That's why we can be in dialogue with some of these large players and we are expecting to close some of the vendors."

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED · EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
O/o The Chief Engineer, (REES & PED), Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram.
Notice inviting Expression Of Interest (EOI)for **'Proposals of Location'** towards Setting up EV Public Charging Stations (EV PCS) under the PM E-DRIVE Scheme in Kerala (Category-C) Open Invitation
EoI No. 02/CE(REES)/25-26 dated 10.02.2026
Last Date & Time of submission of (EOI) **10.03.2026, 05 pm**
Contact : **EV Accelerator Cell, KSEBL,9th Floor, Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram - 695004.**
Email/Phone **pmedrive@kseb.in / 0471 - 2514222**
Visit **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in** and **www.kseb.in** **Ref: PR/MC1/F377//2026**

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN NIGAM LIMITED
CIN:- U40102RJ2000SGCO16484 (A Govt. of Rajasthan Undertaking)
O/o CE (Civil), 7th floor, LIC Jeevan Deep Building, Lal Kothi, Jaipur
E-TENDER NOTICE: TNC-13 (RVU2526WSOB02305)
Online Tenders are invited for Strengthening and Special Repair of RCC Structure of Cooling Tower Unit#4 at STPS Plant, Suratgarh. Tender details are available on websites http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in (for e-tender), www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rvunl & www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.
Raj.Samwad/C/25/19867 RVUN/PR-4348 **Chief Engineer (Civil)**

CSIR – INDIAN INSTITUTE OF CHEMICAL BIOLOGY
4, Raja SC Mullick Road, Jadavpur, Kolkata - 700032
SHORT TENDER NOTICE
1) Name of work: Annual Miscellaneous Electrical Maintenance work at CSIR-IICB Jadavpur and Salt Lake Campus Kolkata; 2) Estimated Cost ₹15 Lakh; 3) E-Tender No. 2026_CSIR_265951_1; 4) Publication date in C.P.P. portal —17.02.2026; 5) For further details please visit https://www.iicb.res.in/tenders, and https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app.

Government of India
MINISTRY OF POWER
Vacancy for the Post of Chairman, Bhakra Beas Management Board
It is proposed to fill up the post of Chairman, **Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB)**, a statutory organization under provision contained in Section 79(2) (a) of Punjab Reorganization Act, 1966.
The detailed Vacancy Circular may be seen at the website of Ministry of Power i.e. **https://powermin.gov.in/**.
Applications/nominations of suitable candidates having qualification and experience for appointment as Chairman, Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) may be sent so as to reach the Ministry of Power latest by **11th March, 2026**, addressed to the **Deputy Director (BBMB), Ministry of Power, Room No. 26, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001**. Applications/Nominations received after the last date will not be considered.
229-PR-Board Sectt-6 FOR YOUR BETTER TOMORROW SAVE ENERGY TODAY

KERALA MARITIME BOARD
(A statutory Board of Govt. of Kerala)
HO TC XXII/1666 (4&5)
1st Floor, Mulamoottil Building, Pipinmoodu, Sasthamangalam, Pin: 695010.
EOI NOTICE
EOI for Development of 5 Acres of Port Land with Beachfront at Vizhinjam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
The Kerala Maritime Board (KMB) invites an Expression of Interest for the **Development of 5 Acres of Port Land with Beachfront at Vizhinjam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**
[EOI NO: HOKMB-TVM/180/2026-C1(Devp)] in Public Private Partnership **(PPP)** mode.
The detailed EOI document can be downloaded from the KMB Website **(www.kmb.kerala.gov.in)**
Proposals must be submitted on or before **30.03.2026, 03:00 PM**.
For further information contact us on **0471 - 2910040 / 9544410029** or email us to **kmb.kerala@gmail.com**
D3/159/2026/I&PRD

कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड
(एक महारत्न कंपनी)
"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on website of Coal India Ltd **www.coalindia.in** / respective Subsidiary Company, CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in**
In addition, procurement is also done through GeM portal **https://gem.gov.in**".

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF IMAGING TECHNOLOGY (C-DIT)
Thiruvallam, Thiruvananthapuram - 27
Ph: 0471-2380910/912/895
TENDER NOTICE
C-DIT invites e tenders for "Providing i7 Laptops H Series (450 Nos) on daily rental basis for 30 days"
T786 Tender ID: 2026_CDIT_836678_1
Last Date: **25.02.2026, 3.00 PM**
For details visit **www.cdit.org**
16.02.2026 **Registrar, C-DIT**

ANDHRA PRADESH POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of A.P Undertaking)
NOTIFICATION for APGENCO e-Procurement
NIT No. 610002213
APGENCO invites open tender for - PROCUREMENT OF APH BASKETS (HEATING ELEMENTS) FOR 27.5 VITM 1900 RAPH OF 210 MW Units of STAGE-I/Dr.MVR.RTPP through APGENCO e-procurement platform. Estimated Value of Contract: Rs.**2,27,55,728/-** Schedule available date & time: **from 15:00Hrs onwards on 12.02.2026**, Bid submission closing date & time: **04.03.2026.upto 13.00 Hrs**, for further details visit: **www.apgenco.gov.in** or (**https://etender.apgenco.gov.in/irj/portal**)". Phone: **(0866) 2526808, 2526115, 2526139.**
DIPR 4835PP/CL, Dt: 16/02/2026

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA eMail: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : KEONJHAR
e Procurement Notice for Road Works under DMF
Bid Identification No. NCB-41/RWCKJR/2025-26
No. 756 // Date : 12.02.2026 //
1. Name of the Work : **Improvement of road from PWD road (Soso) to Adalapanka via Mouda Road from 0/000 Km. to 8/000 Km. in the District of Keonjhar for the year 2025-26.**
3. Estimated Cost : **Rs.718.92 Lakhs (Approximately)**
4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) : **'A' & 'Special' Class of Contractor**
5. Period of Completion : **12 (Twelve)** Calendar Months
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W.Circle, Keonjhar Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	NCB-41 / RWCKJR / 2025-26	Dt.20.02.26 at 11:00 A.M.	Dt.06.03.26 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.05.03.26 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.07.03.26 at 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

● Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in
Sd/- Er.A.P.Kiro, **Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Keonjhar.**
25001/174/2526 OIPR-25001/25177/1/25-26/0035

समुद्री उत्पाद निर्यात विकास प्राधिकरण
THE MARINE PRODUCTS EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
(वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India)
एमपीईडीए हाउस, पनम्पिल्ली एवेन्यू / MPEDA House, Panampilly Avenue
कोच्चि/Kochi - 682036, केरल / Kerala.
(दूरभाष / Tel: 0484- 2311901) ईमेल / Email : ho@mpeda.gov.in
वेबसाइट / Website: www.mpeda.gov.in
कार्यकारी सहायक (अनुबंध आधार पर), टीपीओ, जापान
Executive Assistant (On Contract), TPO Japan
एमपीईडीए योग्य और इच्छुक उम्मीदवारों से एमपीईडीए व्यापार संवर्धन कार्यालय (टीपीओ) टोक्यो, जापान में कार्यकारी सहायक (अनुबंध आधार पर) के पद पर नियुक्ति के लिए अभिव्यक्ति-रुचि (ईओआई) आमंत्रित करता है। ईओआई प्रस्तुत करने की अंतिम तिथि 04 मार्च 2026 है। विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए कृपया एमपीईडीए की वेबसाइट देखें। (अधिसूचना – अवसर – ओपनिंग लिस्ट)
MPEDA, invites Expression of Interest (EoI) from eligible and interested candidates for engagement as Executive Assistant (on contract) at the MPEDA Trade Promotion Office (TPO), Tokyo, Japan. Last date for submission of EoI is 04th March 2026. For detailed information, please visit MPEDA website (Notification – Opportunities – Opening List). **हस्ताक्षर/- Sd/-**
उप निदेशक (कार्मिक)
Deputy Director (Pers)

DHAKA

Bangladesh's Yunus announces resignation, end of interim govt.

AFP

Bangladesh's interim leader Muhammad Yunus stepped down on Monday in a farewell broadcast to the nation before handing over to an elected government. "Today, the interim government is stepping down," the 85-year-old Nobel Peace Prize winner said. Mr. Yunus returned from self-imposed exile in August 2024. AFP

TOKYO

Japan protests Chinese diplomat's comments on reviving 'militarism'

AFP

Tokyo said it had lodged a "stern demarche" to China through diplomatic channels after Beijing's top diplomat Wang Yi accused "far-right forces" in Japan of seeking to revive militarism. Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs dismissed the claims in a post on X Sunday as "factually incorrect and ungrounded". AFP

JHAPA

Nepal launches campaigns for first post-uprising parliamentary polls

AFP

Nepali candidates launched campaigning on Monday for next month's parliamentary elections, the first since deadly protests toppled the previous government in 2025. The ousted former Prime Minister, K.P. Sharma Oli, is being challenged on his home turf by rapper-turned-mayor, Balendra Shah (in the picture). AFP

JERUSALEM

West Bank land registration move by Israel draws Arab nations' flak

AFP

Israel's government has approved a process to register land in the West Bank as "state property", drawing condemnation from Arab nations and critics who said it would accelerate annexation of the Palestinian territory. Israel's Foreign Ministry said the measure would enable "clarification of rights to resolve legal disputes". AFP

'Hasina's presence will not be a deterrent to India ties'

'We believe Hasina really committed serious human rights violations..., but not handing her over will not be a deterrent to build broader relations with India,' says BNP general secretary Alamgir

Kallol Bhattacherjee
DHAKA

Bangladesh will expedite the projects that are in its interest, says Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, general secretary of BNP. REUTERS

Bangladesh's relation with India will not be "captive" to one issue and the presence of deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in India will not "deter" Bangladesh from pursuing its broader relation with India, said the seniormost leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which won the February 12 election. Speaking to *The Hindu* at the party headquarters in Dhaka's Gulshan neighbourhood, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, general secretary of the BNP, said Bangladesh will expedite the projects that are in its interest and will intensify development partnership with India.

"We believe that Hasina really committed serious human rights violations. There is a popular demand to punish her and we believe that India should hand her over to us. But not handing over Sheikh Hasina to Bangladesh will not be a deterrent to build broader relation, including trade and commercial ties. We want to build even better ties," Mr. Alamgir said.

Bangladesh under the interim government has repeatedly urged India to hand over Ms. Hasina and some of the other senior members of the Awami League, who fled the country after the 2024 uprising, but India has not responded to these requests during the past 17 months.

Mr. Alamgir said there is a legal process for Ms. Hasina and her Ministers and bureaucrats, accused of carrying out murders and criminal acts during the uprising. "That process will continue," he said.

Mr. Alamgir, who led the standing committee of the BNP when the late Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was arrested during the Hasina era with Tarique Rahman staying in exile in the United Kingdom, said India-Bangladesh relation has difficult issues to resolve but that should not overwhelm areas that are open for cooperation.

"America and China have many difficulties in bilateral ties yet they are working with each other. We should not stick to just one issue in India-Bangladesh relation."

Historic role

He highlighted the historic role of the BNP in Bangladesh's politics and said that following the assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in August 1975, when Ms. Hasina and other members of her family were based in India, Ziaur Rahman, founder of the BNP, had travelled to India and had hosted Prime Minister Morarji Desai in Dhaka. He added that President Rahman had visited Delhi and met Indira Gandhi in January 1980 when Ms. Hasina was planning to return to Bangladesh for her political debut, saying: "That's the statesmanlike approach."

Alamgir says tough India-Bangladesh issues exist but those shouldn't overwhelm opportunities for cooperation

"Before next year, the issue of Farakka's water will come up under the renewal of Ganga Waters Treaty, then there is the issue of border killings and we must talk on these issues," Mr. Alamgir said. "We can't fight a war with India. We need to talk. Those who talk about fighting India are speaking like insane." Along with BNP chairman Tarique Rahman, Mr. Alamgir is in favour of reconciliation with political rivals and visited the leaders of the opposition Jamaat-e-Islami and National Citizen Party (NCP) on Sunday.

Healthy democracy

He said revenge and violence are detrimental to building a healthy democratic environment in Bangladesh and said the interim government could not bring in reconciliation after the violent uprising of August 2024 as "the leaders of the uprising chose Prof. [Muhammad] Yunus", adding, "Prof. Yunus could not go outside of the brief that the leaders of the uprising gave him."

He presented the 31-point agenda of the BNP as an opportunity that will give India and Bangladesh a chance to work in areas like trade, commerce, capacity building and in digital infrastructure.

"India has resources in technical education and we have a large number of unemployed youngsters. We need to help them with capacity building so that they can get jobs in the Gulf," said Mr. Alamgir.

He also pointed out that the BNP government, which will be headed by Tarique Rahman, will have to deal with the burden of loan that the Awami League government has left behind and it will re-evaluate various projects to see which of the mega projects are wasteful. "Out of these projects we will retain the ones that serve Bangladesh's interest," he said.

BNP's Tarique Rahman to be sworn in as Bangladesh Prime Minister today

Kallol Bhattacherjee
DHAKA

The new Members of Parliament of Bangladesh will be sworn in at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, the Bangladesh Election Commission announced, adding that a "Constitution Reform Commission" will also be administered the oath. This event will be followed by the formation of the new government in the afternoon, when the Cabinet led by BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman will be sworn in. Around 1,200 local and foreign guests are expected to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Bangladesh Nationalist Party Chairman Tarique Rahman and his Cabinet on Tuesday afternoon, the BNP's media wing said.

Tarique Rahman

The announcement of the swearing-in of both the MPs and the members of the Constitution Reform Commission has surprised many newly elected lawmakers. Speaking to *The Hindu*, a newly elected MP said that the Bangladesh EC had not informed them about the swearing-in of the Constitution Reform Commission. According to one version, the entire Parliament will function as the Constitution Reform Commission for 180 days. There is evident unease among the newly elected MPs about how the responsibilities of the Constitution Reform Commission will align with their regular parliamentary duties.

Among those who have confirmed their attendance at the ceremony of the incoming government are Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla; Prime Minister of Bhutan, Tshering Tobgay; Pakistan's Planning Minister Ahsan Iqbal; President of Maldives, Mohamed Muizzu; and Indo-Pacific Under Secretary of the United Kingdom, Seema Malhotra. The Foreign Minister of Nepal's interim government, Bala Nanda Sharma, and Sri Lanka's Health Minister Nalinda Jayatissa will also attend the event. Several other countries, including Qatar, Malaysia, and Brunei, will send high-level delegations to the ceremony.

The event will be held on the premises of Bangladesh's Parliament, Jatiyo Sansad.

Araghchi in Geneva for talks as IRGC begins drills near the Strait of Hormuz

Stanly Johny

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi arrived in Geneva for a second round of nuclear talks with the U.S. and technical discussions with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) amid heightened tensions in the Persian Gulf, as Washington has sent a second aircraft carrier to the region, threatening to use force against the Islamic Republic if diplomacy fails.

While the U.S. and Iran are expected to hold talks, mediated by Oman, in the Swiss city on Tuesday, the naval forces of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) have started military drills near the Strait of Hormuz, a key chokepoint that connects the Persian Gulf with the Arabian Sea through the Gulf of Oman.

Iranian mockup imitating a U.S. aircraft carrier being encircled by speedboats during a drill near the Strait of Hormuz. FILE PHOTO

"I am in Geneva with real ideas to achieve a fair and equitable deal. What is not on the table: submission before threats," Mr. Araghchi wrote in a social media post. IAEA chief Rafael Grossi later said he had "in-depth technical discussions" with Mr. Aragchi ahead of Tuesday's "important negotiations".

Mr. Araghchi had met Steve Witkoff, U.S. President Donald Trump's West Asia envoy, and other officials for nuclear talks on February 6 in Muscat, Oman's capital, and agreed to continue discussions.

Meanwhile, the IRGC on Monday started "live-fire intensive drills" named 'Smart Control of Hormuz Strait' under the supervision of chief commander Major General Mohammed Pakpour. The drills aim to test the readiness of the IRGC Navy's operational units and review support programmes and scenarios in the face of "possible security and military threats" in the strategic Strait of Hormuz, reported state-run Press TV.

"A rapid, decisive, and comprehensive response by the IRGC's operational forces in the face of anti-security plots in the maritime arena is at the core of the operational exercises of the units participating in the drill," it said.

Sport

Ezzejjari's brace wins it for East Bengal

ISL

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

East Bengal FC fired three second-half goals to beat NorthEast United FC 3-0 and open its Indian Super League campaign on a positive note here on Monday.

New recruit Youssef Ezzejjari struck a brace on his debut before Miguel Ferreira completed the scoring in added time.

The Red and Gold brigade dominated the opening period, employing a high press to mount pressure on the visiting side.

Ezzejjari had an early opportunity to ripple the net but failed to convert from close range.

The home team came close to taking the lead in the 36th minute when a thunderous strike from Mohammed Rashid rattled the crossbar.

Riding high: Ezzejjari couldn't have asked for a better start to his ISL journey. DEBASISH BHADURI

Ferreira had a go a few minutes from the end of the first half, but his header sailed over.

The Highlanders relied heavily on counter-attacks but hardly found joy with that tactic.

When the NorthEast side attempted to build attacks through the flanks, it lacked the cutting edge in the final third.

East Bengal finally made the breakthrough in the 65th minute when Bipin Singh delivered a pin-point cross from the left for Ezzejjari to head home.

The Spanish striker doubled the lead five minutes later when substitute Edmund Lalrindika set him up with a clever cut back into the penalty area.

Ferreira added gloss to the scoreline with a fine angular finish, providing the perfect ending for the host.

The result: East Bengal FC 3 (Youssef Ezzejjari 65, 70, Miguel Ferreira 90+2) bt NorthEast United FC 0.

Plucky Napoli holds Roma

Associated Press
NAPLES

Donyell Malen scored his second brace in a row for Roma, but Napoli salvaged a 2-2 draw in Serie A.

Top results: Serie A: Napoli 2 (Spinazzola 40, Alisson 82) drew with Roma 2 (Malen 7, 71-pen). **LaLiga:** Rayo Vallecano 3 (Perez 40, Valentin 45, Mendy 76) bt Atletico Madrid 0; Mallorca 1 (Muriqi 66) lost to Real Betis 2 (Abde 18, Bakambu 45+2).

LIVE TELECAST

Women's Rising Stars Asia Cup: Sony Sports Ten 1, 3 & LIV,
India-A vs Nepal, 8 a.m. & 12.30 p.m.
Ranji Trophy: JioHotstar, 9.30 a.m.
Men's T20 WC: Star Sports 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 11 a.m. 3 & 7 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 11.15 p.m.; 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

Indian cricket teams had a year to remember

SPORTSTAR ACES 2026 #IndiaTriumphs

Sports Bureau

2025 was a monumental year in team sports for India. The men's cricket team bagged sensational title wins at the Champions Trophy and Asia Cup while the women's side created history, securing its maiden senior ICC silverware by winning the ODI World Cup on home soil. India also clinched the inaugural Blind Women's T20 World Cup crown, while the under-19 women's team successfully defended its title in the T20 World Cup.

In a year that was bleak for the footballing ecosystem at both the national and club level, the women's national side proved to be India's silver lining, qualifying for the AFC Asian Cup for the first time on merit.

The men's hockey team ended an eight-year wait for the Asia Cup when it beat Korea 4-1 to earn the continental crown.

It is time to celebrate these achievements among others at the eighth edition of the *Sportstar* Aces Awards. Vote for your favourite national team of the year by scanning the QR code below until February 28.

Additionally, there are 19 Jury Awards which will be decided by an elite panel headed by legendary India cricketer Sunil Gavaskar. Olympic gold medallist Abhinav Bindra, former India hockey captain M. M. Somaya, chess great Viswanathan Anand, and Olympians Anjali Bhagwat and Aparna Popat complete the panel.

There will also be a Chairperson's Award for Sports for Social Good, which will honour individuals or organisations that have used the power of sports to make the world a better place.

IN A LEAGUE OF HIS OWN

Masterful Rashid becomes the first to scale Mt. 700 in T20s

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Afghanistan skipper Rashid Khan became the first bowler to take 700 wickets in T20s. He reached the milestone during Afghanistan's T20 World Cup match against the UAE in New Delhi, where he dismissed Muhammad Arfan in his final over. Rashid averages 18.51 after 518 games, with a strike rate of 16.8 and an economy of 6.59.

BOUNCING BACK

Afghanistan's performance under pressure pleases coach Trott

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

(The) UAE played really well, and we were under pressure, but that's the pleasing thing for me as a coach. At the end of the day, when you come out on the right side of pressure situations, like we were, having the history of the last game (against South Africa), I've certainly seen a shift — Afghanistan head coach Jonathan Trott.

OUCH!

Spectator hit by a Jacks missile in the England-Italy WC game

K.R. DEEPAK

England all-rounder Will Jacks went on a boundary-hitting spree in the T20 World Cup match against Italy in Kolkata on Monday, with one of his four sixes injuring a spectator in the Eden Gardens stands. The woman had to be rushed for medical attention after being hit by the ball on the face.

FICKLE GAME

We haven't played our best cricket, but we've got through: Brook

K.R. DEEPAK

We haven't played our best cricket, but at the end of the day, we've got through and we're heading to the next round. So, we can be happy about that. We haven't managed to string together the scores that we'd like to do as a batting unit, but that's part of T20 cricket. It's a fickle game — England captain Harry Brook.

Omarzai sizzles, keeps Afghanistan in the hunt

T20 WORLD CUP

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Omarzai. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

An upside of the short turnaround between group-stage matches in the T20 World Cup is that the players don't have to brood over disappointments for long. Azmatullah Omarzai will concur after his match-winning display against the UAE at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Monday.

Five days after Omarzai bowled a costly Super Over against South Africa in Ahmedabad, the 25-year-old found joy with bat and ball. The Afghanistan all-rounder claimed four for 15 to restrict the UAE to 160 for nine, and smashed an unbeaten 40 off 21 balls to help his side hunt down the target in 19.2 overs.

Afghanistan's first win of this edition gives it hope of sneaking into the Super Eight stage.

Having elected to bowl, Afghanistan snared two wickets early, reducing the Middle-East outfit to 13 for two. Omarzai made the opening breakthrough of Aryansh Sharma.

Alishan Sharafu and Sohaib Khan counter-attacked with an 84-run alliance for the third wicket.

Once Sharafu holed out at long-off off Mujeeb Ur Rahman in the 12th over, though, the Afghan attack tightened the noose. The UAE managed just 63 runs off the last 52 deliveries.

The run chase was laced with twists and turns. After Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Gulbadin Naib departed inside the PowerPlay, Ibrahim Zadran steadied the ship with a half-century. But with 64 needed off seven overs, Zadran pulled Muhammad Arfan to deep midwicket.

Darwish Rasooli and Omarzai forged a 43-run stand for the fifth wicket, and the latter hit Muhammad Jawadullah for a six and four in the penultimate over. When Omarzai hit the winning runs in the final over, Afghanistan heaved a sigh of relief.

The scores: UAE 160/9 in 20 overs (Sharafu 40, Sohaib 68, Omarzai 4/15, Mujeeb 2/31) lost to Afghanistan 162/5 in 19.2 overs (Ibrahim Zadran 53, Rasooli 33, Omarzai 40 n.o., Siddique 2/23, Arfan 2/30); **Toss:** Afghanistan; **PoM:** Omarzai.

Ton-up Nissanka leaves Australia on the brink

The opener's scintillating knock takes Lanka into Super Eight with ease; Kusal Mendis hits a fifty; Hemantha's three-for proves vital in bowling out the 2021 champion for 181 after its dream start

Anish Pathiyil
PALLEKELE

Masterclass: Nissanka brought up his second T20I hundred off just 52 balls. AP

It is not often you see an Australian team walk around the field with drooping shoulders. The reaction was logical in view of what transpired at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium here on Monday. Egged on by the vociferous home support, Sri Lanka trumped the Aussies by eight wickets to push them to the brink of elimination from the ICC T20 World Cup.

Pathum Nissanka (100 n.o., 52b, 10x4, 5x6) and Kusal Mendis (51, 38b, 6x4, 1x6) chose precision over power to put up a 97-run second-wicket stand, which helped the home side chase down the 182-run target with two overs to spare.

Supporting role

Pavan Rathnayake ensured Kusal's wicket didn't trigger a collapse mirroring the first innings, playing the perfect foil to Nissanka's batting masterclass at the other end against a crestfallen bowling attack. Within the blink of an eye, the opener raced to his second T20I hundred to guide his side through to the Super Eight stage.

Earlier, Steve Smith's addition to the squad as Josh Hazlewood's replacement prompted suggestions that Mitchell Marsh was not ready to take the field.

But it was the captain (54, 27b, 8x4, 2x6) who strode out alongside Travis Head (56, 29b, 7x4, 3x6) to give the team a blistering start it was longing for in this tournament.

The Australian openers punished the opponent's inability to stick to a nagging line, racing to a 104-run partnership within nine overs. The tables turned once both fell to Dushan Hemantha (three for 37) after their rapid half-centuries.

The rest of the batting order, barring a brief partnership between Josh Inglis and Glenn Maxwell, looked to inflate the scoring rate without accounting for the turn on offer for the tweakers, resulting in a flurry of wickets. With just 71 runs to show in its final 10 overs, it was clear where Australia lost the plot.

The scores:

Australia 181 in 20 overs (Mitchell Marsh 54, Travis Head 56, Dushmantha Chameera 2/36, Dushan Hemantha 3/37) lost to Sri Lanka 184/2 in 18 overs (Pathum Nissanka 100 n.o., Kusal Mendis 51, Marcus Stoinis 2/46). **Toss:** Lanka; **PoM:** Nissanka.

Clinical Team India enhances its aura

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
COLOMBO

Kishan. GETTY IMAGES

The Colombo detour proved to be a fruitful endeavour for the Men in Blue. With a clinical triumph against Pakistan, India enhanced its defending champion's halo in the ICC T20 World Cup.

A Super Eight berth has been sealed, and while sterner battles await, Suryakumar Yadav's men can be proud about their initial campaign. Any clash against Pakistan, with its historical baggage, diplomatic unease, and emotional swirls, is never easy, even if on pure form this Indian unit will often prevail over the neighbour.

On an otherwise fine Sunday night, refusing to shake hands with their Pakistani rivals, was an aberration for the Indians. On cricketing merits, India kept ticking the boxes. On a pitch overwhelmingly in favour of spin, heroes were found.

First up, Ishan Kishan essayed a stunning knock. While others often struggled to gauge the pace and turn off the pitch, the southpaw hustled his runs all over. His 77 was a special effort, the kind that would deflate any rival attack. Even if Salman Agha's men plied their spin on a sluggish turf, Kishan was adept at scrambling their lines with his all-round shots.

His opening act ensured a solid platform for India to surge high. The runs scored by Suryakumar and Shivam Dube were an added bonus. India's 175 was a tough one to scale at the R. Premadasa Stadium, a venue where chasing is never easy.

Meanwhile, the ducks from Abhishek Sharma and Hardik Pandya need not cause any alarm. In the cyclical nature of form in the fickle T20s, they are bound to find an upswing soon. Hardik, the bowler, though, did his job. Along with Jasprit Bumrah, he ensured that Pakistan was three down in no time and the Indian spinners could step in with less pressure.

Axar Patel, Varun Chakaravarthy and Kuldeep Yadav had the cushion of solid runs to defend, and could further aggravate the early wounds inflicted by the seamers. While India deserves all credit, Pakistan's unravelling remains a sporting tragedy. From those days in the 1980s and 1990s, when it tested even the then mighty West Indies, the current slide seems terrible.

The latest news about the health issues affecting its greatest star Imran Khan languishing in jail, for political reasons, further darkens the air. India, though, is all about aura and consistency, traits that will be again on display at its next stop in Ahmedabad.

Jacks on fire as England edges Italy, reaches Super Eight

Agence France-Presse
KOLKATA

Dazzling display: Jacks scored the fastest fifty for England in T20 World Cup history. K.R. DEEPAK

England survived a scare to qualify for the Super Eight at the T20 World Cup on Monday as Italy's spirited chase of 203 fell agonisingly short in a pulsating match in Kolkata.

Will Jacks scored the fastest fifty for England in T20 World Cup history as it made 202 for seven and eventually won by 24 runs.

Italy was on track to pull off a sensational upset when Grant Stewart and Jaspreet Singh blasted 21 off Adil Rashid's final over, the 17th of the chase, including three sixes.

That left 30 needed off 12 balls, but it proved too much and Italy was all out off the last ball of the match for 178.

Earlier, most of England's batsmen got good starts after Harry Brook chose to bat.

But only Jacks capitalised as Italy kept chipping away with regular wickets. He reached his fifty off 21 balls to beat Eoin Morgan's 25-ball effort against the West Indies in Kandy in 2012. Jacks took the game by the scruff of the neck after England stuttered to 105 for five in the 13th over.

He put on 54 off 25 balls with Sam Curran (25) for the sixth wicket and 35 off 16 balls with Jamie Overton (15) for the seventh.

Jacks remained unbeaten on 53 off 22 balls.

The scores: England 202/7 in 20 overs (Tom Banton 30, Will Jacks 53 n.o., Grant Stewart 2/51, Crishan Kalugamage 2/41) bt Italy 178 in 20 overs (Justin Mosca 43, Ben Manenti 60, Grant Stewart 45, Jofra Archer 2/35, Jamie Overton 3/18, Sam Curran 3/22). **Toss:** England; **PoM:** Jacks.

Associate nations need to get better in game awareness

Sunil Gavaskar

The ICC T20 World Cup is the best chance for the emerging teams to show how much progress they have made in the two years since the previous edition. Unlike the ODI World Cup, which occurs every four years, the T20 World Cup is a biennial affair and is one tournament where the Associate nations have a good chance of surprising the full member teams.

It hasn't quite happened in this edition. Yes, Zimbabwe beat Australia, but they are not only a full member team and have also done it in the past in the ODI World Cup. Nepal had a very good chance to beat England, but came up against Sam Curran. The experienced all-rounder ensured England got through by the skin of their teeth by bowling an over full of superb yorkers.

The USA and the UAE have shown that they are the pick of the emerging countries and both these teams have benefitted immensely from their players featuring in their domestic T20 leagues, the MLC and the IL T20, where some of the best-known overseas stars also take part.

The one area where emerging teams need to get better is the catching, especially at game-changing moments. It's here that they let themselves down and leave the door open to a more experienced team to get away. If this is a technical aspect which can be improved by more and more practice, the other shortcoming is more of a temperament issue. The temptation to go for the glory shot often results in dismissals when smart batting would take them to a win. Today's bats and shorter boundaries do make batters believe they can hit the maximums, but for lower-order players to attempt the six rather than give strike to the more accomplished and well-settled batter at the other end, has often allowed the fielding side to sneak through from a losing position.

That said, the emerging teams have been a breath of fresh air and their enthusiasm and liveliness have added to the fun and excitement.

(Professional Management Group)

Points table

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP INDIA & SRI LANKA 2026

GROUP A

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
India (Q)	3	3	0	6	3.050
USA	4	2	2	4	0.788
Pakistan	3	2	1	4	-0.403
Netherlands	3	1	2	2	-1.352
Namibia	3	0	3	0	-2.443

GROUP B

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Sri Lanka (Q)	3	3	0	6	2.462
Zimbabwe	2	2	0	4	1.984
Australia	3	1	2	2	0.414
Ireland	3	1	2	2	0.150
Oman	3	0	3	0	-4.546

GROUP C

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
West Indies (Q)	3	3	0	6	1.820
England (Q)	4	3	1	6	0.201
Scotland	3	1	2	2	0.359
Italy	3	1	2	2	-0.588
Nepal	3	0	3	0	-1.942

GROUP D

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
South Africa (Q)	3	3	0	6	1.477
New Zealand	3	2	1	4	0.701
Afghanistan	3	1	2	2	-0.215
UAE	3	1	2	2	-0.797
Canada	2	0	2	0	-1.526

Q: QUALIFIED

New Zealand back at its happy hunting ground

The Kiwis' perfect record at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium should give them the confidence to get the job done against Canada; a win will take them into the Super Eight stage

T20 WORLD CUP

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

New Zealand will look to draw comfort from pleasant memories at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium as it aims to seal its berth in the T20 World Cup Super Eight stage when it takes on Canada in its final Group D fixture on Tuesday.

The Black Caps won both their games at this venue – against Afghanistan and the UAE – before being handed a seven-wicket thrashing by South Africa in Ahmedabad.

On paper, the Kiwis shouldn't be troubled by Canada, but their defeat to the Proteas exposed chinks in their armour. The manner in which the team was outplayed at the Narendra Modi Stadium was similar to the reverses it suffered at the hands of India in the recent bilateral series.

A persistent problem is the lack of variety in the bowling attack. This was exposed by Aiden Markram's men who chased down a 176-run target with 17 balls to spare. However, Kiwi all-rounder Glenn Phillips allayed any concerns about the worrying pattern.

Time to regroup: New Zealand players in a relaxed mood ahead of the Canada clash. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

Today's matches

Chennai, 11 a.m.	**Pallekele,** 3 p.m.	**Mumbai,** 7 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD	HEAD-TO-HEAD	HEAD-TO-HEAD
New Zealand | Canada	Played: **18**	Played: **2**
First Meeting	Ireland 8 | Zimbabwe 8 | NR 2	Scotland 1 | Nepal 1

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & JIOHOTSTAR

"If we don't bowl as well as we did on previous days, we look at that and try to do better the next time.

"It's professional cricket at the end of the day. Sometimes you're good, sometimes you're not. You just hope the gap between the two is a little less each day," said Phillips.

Canada's wicketkeeper Shreyas Movva admitted that the squad had a tough time recovering from the loss to the UAE in its previous game. Canada had the UAE struggling at 66 for four in the 13th over of the 150-run chase before letting the game slip away. "It was not easy to get over that defeat. We need to regroup as a team. We had two practice matches in Chennai, where we batted really well. It's just that we need to come up with good bowling plans," said Shreyas.

Padikkal and Smaran pile on the agony for Uttarakhand

RANJI TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
LUCKNOW

Uttarakhand's mesmerising run in the 2025-26 Ranji Trophy experienced a sobering reality check as Karnataka buried it under a mountain of runs on day two of the semifinal at the Ekana Cricket Stadium here on Monday.

From an overnight 355 for two, the eight-time champion finished on a mammoth 689 for six, with skipper Devdutt Padikkal smashing his maiden First Class double century (232, 330b, 29x4, 3x6) and R. Smaran his fifth ton (121 batting, 191b, 11x4).

Karun Nair would be gutted for not capitalising on the great batting conditions, falling as he did for 60 (105b, 8x4, 1x6), caught behind playing a loose shot to speedster Abhay Negi.

That Karnataka meant business from the get-go on the second morning was evident in Padikkal's urgency. The southpaw unleashed an array of sublime drives, flicks and cuts, and nonchalantly reverse-swept Uttarakhand's frontline spinner Mayank Mishra.

The 25-year-old accumulated 52 runs from as many balls to breach the coveted double-hundred mark and leave behind his previous best of 193 (vs. Punjab in January 2024).

His dismissal was an anti-climax, with wicketkeeper Saurabh Rawat taking a sharp low catch down the leg-side off part-time spinner Lakshya Raichandani's third ball.

But Smaran ensured that Padikkal's exit wouldn't disturb the Karnataka batting parade in the slightest.

The 22-year-old batted with remarkable poise and was meticulous in his run-making when being complacent and trying to play fancy shots would not have felt incongruous on a placid track.

That he accumulated more than half his runs in singles told the story (71 of 121). It was only apt that he reached the three-figure mark with a tapped single to mid-on.

Wicketkeeper Kruthik Krishna, too, enjoyed his stay, scoring his first Ranji half-century (60, 103b, 6x4, 1x6). His most eye-catching shots were the five boundaries he hit in the third-man area.

Vidyadhar Patil (35 batting, 107b, 1x4, 1x6) is just three runs shy of his best First Class score. When the sun shines, it is natural that everyone will make hay.

Raining runs: Padikkal and Smaran deflated Uttarakhand with their big knocks. R.V. MOORTHY

The scores: Karnataka — 1st innings: K.L. Rahul c & b Aditya 141, Mayank Agarwal c Prashant b Aditya 5, Devdutt Padikkal c Saurabh b Raichandani 232, Karun Nair c Saurabh b Abhay 60, R. Smaran (batting) 121, Shreyas Gopal b Aditya 0, Kruthik Krishna b Avneesh 60, Vidyadhar Patil (batting) 35; Extras (b-11, lb-6, nb-5, w-8, penalty-5): 35; Total (for six wkts. in 180 overs): 689.

Fall of wickets: 1-18, 2-296, 3-425, 4-484, 5-485, 6-608.

Uttarakhand bowling: Abhay 29-4-99-1, Janmejay 29-5-94-0, Aditya 29-3-132-3, Mayank 38-1-167-0, Suchith 10-0-43-0, Avneesh 35-2-107-1, Lakshya 10-1-25-1.

Padikkal rates his ton against Punjab higher than the double against Uttarakhand

N. Sudarshan
LUCKNOW

Devdutt Padikkal cannot put a foot wrong. On his captaincy debut a fortnight ago, he scored a match-winning, fourth-innings century (120 n.o., 85b, 6x4, 5x6) versus Punjab to ensure Ranji Trophy knockouts qualification for Karnataka.

On day two of the semifinal against Uttarakhand, he came up with an impressive double-century (232, 330b, 29x4, 3x6), his first in First Class cricket. "It's the most runs I've scored in a Ranji game, but there have been a few innings which were in more difficult circumstances," Padikkal told reporters on Monday. "The Punjab one will always be special because of the situation we were in. So this will probably come in second."

Though the Ekana Cricket Stadium pitch was batting-friendly, it was important for the 25-year-old not to be complacent.

"You have to keep reminding yourself that these opportunities don't come that often. You play on a lot of challenging wickets during Ranji Trophy. So when you get a wicket that is suitable to bat, it's important to cash in. I'm happy that everyone in the team was switched on."

Padikkal stated that the chastening 217-run reverse to Madhya Pradesh in the penultimate group-stage game acted as a positive trigger. "We were top of the table coming into that game, but when you face a defeat like that at home, it can go both ways. You can let that deter you and not get back up. Or you can do what we did and answer the critics with our performance. And I'm glad that we've been able to do [the latter]."

Nepal, Scotland meet in an inconsequential contest

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

If viewed purely through the prism of qualification, Tuesday night's T20 World Cup Group C clash between Nepal and Scotland at the Wankhede Stadium is inconsequential. Neither side remains in contention for a Super Eight berth.

But zoom out, and the fixture carries significance beyond the points table. For Scotland, a victory would validate its presence as more than a last-minute stand-in. It would underline that it belongs on this stage.

For Nepal, the stakes feel even higher. Rohit Paudel's men, based in Mumbai throughout the tournament, have emerged as one of the competition's most compelling stories. Backed by passionate support and having come agonisingly close to upsetting England in its opener, Nepal is yet to open its account. A win would ensure the red-and-blue army signs off on a high. Beyond individual motivations lies a shared objective. Both teams are keen to remind cricket's power-brokers of the need for greater engagement between Associate and Test-playing sides. More exposure, they argue, is essential for sustained growth.

Tom Bruce, the Scotland batter echoed that sentiment. "We would love to see more cricket, Associate nations against tier one nations. There has been a lot of talk around the cricket calendar, and what that needs to look like in order to accommodate international cricket, World Cups, franchise cricket, the Olympics, and trying to get more nations playing cricket," Bruce said on Monday.

Meaningless on paper, perhaps – but meaningful in message.

Ireland match becomes the most important one, reckons Raza

Anish Pathiyil
PALLEKELE

Zimbabwe has been the talk of the town this T20 World Cup. Victory over Australia in Group B leaves the side with a realistic shot at achieving its maiden Super Eight appearance.

A win over Ireland in its penultimate group game will help the side take a further step towards qualification.

Captain Sikandar Raza, however, says the team is solely focused on taking it one game at a time.

"It's a lovely position to be in.

"But the next game becomes the most important one. Fine, the world is talking about Zimbabwe. But let them do all the talking for us.

"Those victories that we have had so far will count for nothing, especially if there is a slip-up now," the skipper said.

Zimbabwe's success has been built on the performances of its pace-bowling attack, featuring Blessing Muzarabani, Richard Ngarava and Brad Evans.

Raza said that finding the perfect combination and sticking with it over nine months has been key to the team's success.

"They have been good for a long time – Blessing, Ngarava, Brad, even (Tinotenda) Maposa when he's given the opportunity.

" It's nice how they're going about their job, and I'm hoping that they will have more success as the tournament goes on," the captain said.

Ireland's Mark Adair also heaped praise on the Zimbabwe pace unit ahead of their game on Tuesday.

"They're probably as good a bowling line-up as you'll find in this competition.

"It's definitely a challenge for our batters, but it's something that we're looking forward to," the all-rounder said.

Real gets Mbappe boost for showdown against Benfica

FOOTBALL

Associated Press
MADRID

With Kylian Mbappe back in the squad, Real Madrid returns to Portugal looking for some payback against Jose Mourinho's Benfica in the Champions League.

Three weeks after Mourinho's team stunned his former club in a 4-2 win that allowed Benfica to qualify and kept the Spanish giant from automatically reaching the round of 16, the two teams will meet again at the Stadium of Light in the first round of the knockout stage.

"I hope history does not repeat itself," Madrid coach Álvaro Arbeloa said.

Champions League schedule
Galatasaray vs. Juventus (11:15 p.m. on Tuesday)
Paris Saint-Germain vs. AS Monaco.
Benfica vs. Real Madrid.
Borussia Dortmund vs. Atalanta (1:30 a.m. on Wednesday).

All set

"We are prepared for the difficulty of the match, the opponent, the atmosphere and what awaits us on Tuesday.

Dogra and Samad's knocks revive Jammu & Kashmir against Bengal

Y.B. Sarangi
KALYANI

Carrying the thrill of a tug-of-war contest, the Ranji Trophy semifinal match at the Bengal Cricket Academy ground here remained nicely balanced on the second day as Jammu & Kashmir relied on Abdul Samad and captain Paras Dogra's commendable half-centuries to put up a strong fight against Bengal on Monday.

Resuming from 249 for five, Bengal was all out for 328 in its first innings.

In reply, J & K recovered from 13 for three to close at 198 for five to trail by 130 runs.

J & K pace ace Auqib Nabi's relentlessness and execution of skills earned him three more wickets and his 15th five-for. He scalped overnight centurion Sudip Gharami, who shouldered arms to be adjudged lbw, after J & K took the second new ball and went on to claim Akash Deep and Mohammed Shami.

Sumanta Gupta played some cracking shots to push Bengal past 300.

Disastrous start

J & K had a disastrous start as Shami ran in hard, found good areas and worked up pace to secure lbw decisions against openers Shubham Khajuria and Yawer Hassan.

Mukesh Kumar dismissed Shubham Pundir immediately after lunch to reduce J & K to 13 for three.

Nevertheless, Samad and Dogra's spirited 143-run partnership increased Bengal's anxiety.

Samad, dropped by 'keeper Shakir Gandhi on 34 off Mukesh, displayed his flair and impressed with his cuts, punches and drives. Seasoned pro Dogra patiently held one end despite receiving some blows and showcased his handsome drives.

Bengal regained ground with Shami striking in the first over of his second spell as Samad hit straight to extra-cover.

Dogra, who was declared lbw off a no-ball and became the second man after Wasim Jaffer to score 10,000 Ranji runs during his knock, ill-timed Mukesh to deep square-leg sooner than later.

Abid Mushtaq and Kanhaiya Wadhawan stood firm to keep J & K in the fight.

Early inroads: Shami's incisive spell left the visiting side reeling. RITU RAJ KONWAR

The scores: Bengal — 1st innings: Abhimanyu Easwaran b Nabi 49, Sudip Chatterjee c Pundir b Sunil 0, Sudip Gharami lbw b Nabi 146, Suraj Jaiswal c Wadhawan b Nabi 0, Anustup Majumdar lbw b Abid 14, Shahbaz Ahmed lbw b Sunil 42, Shakir Habib Gandhi lbw b Sunil 4, Sumanta Gupta c Abid b Yudhvir 39, Akash Deep lbw b Nabi 7, Mohammed Shami c Vanshaj b Nabi 1, Mukesh Kumar (not out) 11; Extras (lb-7, nb-6, w-2): 15; Total (in 97.1 overs): 328.

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-89, 3-89, 4-155, 5-249, 6-269, 7-269, 8-298, 9-306.

Jammu & Kashmir bowling: Nabi 26-6-87-5, Sunil 20-8-41-3, Yudhvir 18.1-70-1 Abid 19-3-82-1, Vanshaj 11-1-34-0, Samad 3-0-7-0.

Jammu & Kashmir — 1st innings: Shubham Khajuria lbw b Shami 3, Yawer Hassan lbw b Shami 2, Shubham Singh Pundir c Chatterjee b Mukesh 8, Paras Dogra c Jaiswal b Mukesh 58, Abdul Samad c Akash b Shami 82, Kanhaiya Wadhawan (batting) 10, Abid Mushtaq (batting) 26; Extras (b-2, lb-5, nb-2): 9; Total (for five wkts. in 51 overs): 198.

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-13, 3-13, 4-156, 5-156.

Bengal bowling: Shami 13-2-60-3, Mukesh 13-2-40-2, Akash 9-0-33-0, Jaiswal 8-1-39-0, Shahbaz 8-0-19-0.

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Maharashtra edges Karnataka

Maharashtra edged out Karnataka by four runs in the BCCI senior women's one-day Trophy at Rajkot.

The scores:

Maharashtra 175 in 48.2 overs (Anuja Patil 40, Rajeshwari Gayakwad 4/20) bt Karnataka 171/8 in 50 overs.

Himachal gains lead, match drawn

Host Himachal Pradesh gained the first-innings lead against Karnataka in a high-scoring draw in the C.K. Nayudu Trophy (u-23) at Nadaun on Monday.

Resuming on 473 for six in reply to Karnataka's 537, Himachal Pradesh went past the visitor's score on the back on an unbeaten eighth-wicket stand between Daksh Narayan (104 n.o.) and Aditya Chauhan (61 n.o.).

The scores:

Karnataka 537 drew with Himachal Pradesh 603/7 in 187.1 overs (Sagar Malhan 54, Atul Jaiswal 54, Innesh Mahajan.